Exhibits were as follows: By Mr. Gillette: 1863 gold dollar uncirculated, following patterns numbered by Adams—Woodin 6 half-dollars, Nos. 733, 744, 902, 908, 922, 928, 2 Quarters Nos. 754, 766, 6 Dimes Nos. 774, 775, 780, 781, 786. 787. All being in beautiful proof condition. 1799 Cent, fine. Christophus Columbus and Columbia Medal dated Oct. 21st, 1892, issued for the Chicago Fair commemorating the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus, size 65, light bronze proof. By Mr. L. G. Amberg, 1796 Half Dollar in fine condition.

Meeting adjourned to Tuesday, November 19th, 1918.

W. H. AMBERG, Secretary.

Springfield Coin Club

The sixty-ninth meeting of the Springfield Coin Club was held in the rooms of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Wednesday evening, November 13th, with President Frazier in the chair. Members present: De St. Guay, Converse, Frazier, Morse, Oliver, Prevost, Stone and Morris. Visitor, Elwell.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved, after which the Treasurer's report was received. Announcement was made that we were not allowed to hold the October meeting because of the prevalence of the epidemic.

It was moved by Stone that in case of the death in the family of a member of the Club that the Governing Board use their judgment about buying flowers. Motion carried.

Deep regrets were expressed at the report of the death of the son of our fellow-member, Mr. Oppenheimer, who was in the United States Navy and who died after a protracted illness.

Upon motion by Stone it was moved that a letter of condolence be sent to Mr. Frank G. Duffield, the editor of the Numismatist, because of the death of his daughter and son-in-law.

It was moved by Stone that three members be appointed on a committee of arrangement for the annual meeting of the A. N. A. in Springfield on December 11th. Motion carried, and the President appointed all Past Presidents, i. e., Messrs. Prevost, Oliver, and Pond.

It was moved by Oliver that a suitable letter and flowers be sent our esteemed ex-President, Mr. Preston Pond, who was reported to be recovering from a serious illness. Motion carried.

It was moved by Stone that a nominating committee be appointed to bring in nominations for officers for next year. Said nominations to be presented at the January meeting. Motion carried, and the President appointed all Past President, i. e., Prevost, Oliver and Pond.

The entertainment of the evening consisted of an interesting exhibition, by our fellow-member, Mr. Stone, of siege coins, after which Mr. Stone presented a contest on American coins. The three highest scores being made by Morris 70, Oliver 66 and Converse 63. A vote of thanks was given Mr. Stone for the entertainment, which was much appreciated.

The meeting then adjourned until the second Wednesday in December with the A. N. A.

A. W. MORRIS, Secretary.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

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Vol. X. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, JANUARY, 1919 No. 1

With The Editor

President Wilson Gets a Gold Medal.

Before leaving Washington for France, officials of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith presented to President Wilson the gold medal awarded him by the society last October as the man who had rendered the most distinguished service to humanity during the past year.

During his travels in Europe, the President will doubtless receive many medals, and will have a most valuable and historical collection to bring with him when he returns to this country.

Hun Money Banned in France.

The French Government has issued a decree prohibiting the importation of German bank notes, coins, or any other monetary medium into France.

Sir Arthur Currie Gets a Medal.

Before leaving Mons, which the Canadians captured just before the armistice was signed, Sir Arthur Currie, the commander of the Canadian Corps, was presented by the city with a medal in gold specially struck in his honor and inscribed as a souvenir of the liberation of the city by the Canadian Corps. Replicas will be distributed among the troops who participated.

Ten New Nations—Ten New Sisters.

The United States has ten new little sisters—and will be expected to act as a big sister towards them, and she may have her hands full. It is said that at least ten new States will be represented in the diplomatic circles of the principal governments of the world when peace is made permanent. Three more will be added to the ten if Bavaria, Wurtemberg and Saxony establish separate governments. The ten now assured as a result of the war are: Hungary, Poland, Lithuania, Esthonia, Livonia, Finland, Czecho-Slovakia, Jugo-Slavia, Armenia and the Ukraine.

These new States will doubtless each have its own national coinage. As their hands are not tied with tradition and red tape, we may look forward to some interesting types.

Difference in the Value of the Mark.

From Germany comes the news that in the Rhine cities our men are better off than in Belgium, because we have fixed a value for the mark of seventy centimes, whereas in Belgium the mark still fetches one franc thirty-five centimes in official exchange, being therefore almost double the value. Accordingly Germany, in liquidating her debt to Belgium, will have to redeem each paper mark she issued there by two German marks.

A New Variety of the Nova Scotia 1861 Cent.

From Nova Scotia, Mr. D. G. McIntyre writes: "I noticed in your October issue some remarks on 'The Coinage and Tokens of Canada.' I was particularly interested in the reference to the Nova Scotia half-cents of 1861-4. After looking at quite a number I could only discover one variety of each date. It was but a step to the one-cent pieces of the same years, and here I had more success.

Dr. Courteau in his work, 'The Coins and Tokens of Nova Scotia,' gives but one variety of the 1861 cent. On examination of a large number of this date I was fortunate enough to discover two very distinct die varieties. The difference is found in the position of the line, or ornament, between the date and the crown. The line is generally found nearer the date than the crown; I found several dozens of this variety, but only two in which the line was distinctly nearer the crown than the date. This is enough to constitute a distinct die variety, and I venture to think may be of interest to those of your readers interested in this series."

Another Fine Sale

The number of fine auction sales being held this season by B. Max Mehl at Fort Worth, Texas, have become known as "Quality" Sales. They all contain such a fine "Cosmopolitan" assortment of NUMISMATIC Material that they enjoy one of the largest Numismatic patronages accorded any market.

The latest announcement is the sale at auction of the fine collection formed by Mr. D. A. Crichton of North Dakota. This collection consists of a fine series of United States coins from the half cent to the $50.00 gold piece, with many rarities including the $4.00 gold piece; some fine Colonial's including the Martha Washington Half Disme, said to have been struck from the private silver plate furnished by George Washington.

There are the Dollars of 1794, 1852 and 1858. A fine collection of Cents with the 1793's, 1799 and 1804; foreign gold and silver; some rare early Massachusetts silver, etc. The fine state of preservation of the entire collection is the predominating feature.

Besides the Crichton collection, this sale will include the fourth part of Mr. Sears' stock. It will in every respect be another "Quality" Sale.

The Catalogs will be illustrated and will be ready for free distribution in the latter part of January. Those who are not on the mailing list may have the Catalog without cost by addressing B. Max Mehl, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas.

A Price List of this important sale, showing the amounts realized for each and every lot, will be issued promptly after the sale and supplied at only FIFTY CENTS. These Price Lists furnish an unusually good guide of the prevailing numismatic values.

NUMISMATIC RANDOM REELS

By DELMONT L. ANGELL

"* * * I stumbled on to an 1804 dollar and picked it up for a song!"

The above lines were the addendum to a letter from a friend. An 1804 dollar! I never owned one, never expect to, and have seen but two. As for "stumbling" on to one—well, I have done my share of stumbling, but not on genuine 1804 dollars! Why, Willie and Freddie Hohenzollern have more chance of again disturbing the peace of Europe than has this coin proving true—and we all know what chance they have! Knowing this collector as I do, I am afraid his "song" is one of many verses if each verse represented a dollar. When will the amateur collector learn there is only one thing to do in a case of this kind, and that is to consult a reputable numismatist, pay him, if necessary, a reasonable fee, and find out at first hand, if what purports to be a very rare coin is genuine or not? It was only a short while back that I visited a novelty store run by a Greek—and a good Greek, too. He has on sale a few miscellaneous coins of the pocket-piece variety. As I entered the store he approached me with a somewhat uncertain show of suppressed emotion, at the same time handing me an 1804 dollar. It was about the crudest alteration I have seen of any piece. Naturally, his first question was that paramount one in some minds—how much would I give for it? I answered just one dollar! His confidence in me fell below zero at my reply, and the five years that I had enjoyed his full confidence and respect were temporarily blotted out! He had been to the postoffice and to his bank, where it had been examined and passed upon as genuine. I told him it was both good and bad—good as an early dollar, but bad as to date. My paradoxical answer was too much for him, for it does not enter into the lexicon of the average foreigner that anything could possibly be good and at the same time bad. As a result of my perspicacity I almost lost a friend. It was not long, however, before he was convinced of the deception practiced on him, and knew that had he followed the counsel I had given him, he would have saved a perfectly good war bond—and an awful headache!

Recently I received a communication from the wife of a collector friend in California stating that her husband had contracted "influence" en route to Los Angeles and must be in bad straits as he had requested her to tell Mr. B—— that he could have his collection of gold dollars for 75 cents each and some uncirculated cents at face value. I hastened to reassure the good woman of his improved condition and ultimate recovery. As a matter of fact, you could not separate this particular individual from one of his coins with a boatload of TNT.

While in New York a short time ago, I was regaled with an anecdotal narrative that I had neither heard nor seen in print, and which will bear repetition. In one of the New England States was a coin collector given to the custom of going through the country towns and farming districts on a still hunt for something to add to his collection. On one particular day he had had no luck and was about to return home when he descried a farm house situated some distance from the street. As a last resort he wended his way hither and in reply to the housewife who had answered his knock at the door,

he stated his quest. The woman replied there was a half-dollar which had been in the family many years to commemorate the birth-year of some long-dead ancestor, and naturally she did not care to dispose of it. At a request to see the coin, much to his amazement it proved to be a fine specimen of a half dollar of 1796! Coincidentally, the gentleman had in his possession a dollar of the same date. With true Yankee shrewdness, he informed the possessor of the half dollar that inasmuch as it was merely a commemorative coin, and that he lacked the date in his collection, he suggested that they exchange. To his further surprise, the offer was accepted, the woman stating the year being the same, she was at least 50 cents ahead by the transaction! Nowhere but in New England could this have happened.

New Silver Coinage System for Mexico.

Gold Peso to Continue as Theoretical Unit—New Money to Be of Limited Legal Tender Power in Private Transactions.

Mexico City, November 14.—A decree issued by President Carranza was published today establishing a new system of silver coinage, by which the amount of pure metal in each coin is reduced to correspond with its face value, the high price of silver having caused the disappearance of the old coinage. The new coinage is declared not to be legal tender in private transactions in amounts larger than $20, although the Government makes no restriction upon the amounts that will be accepted by it in payment of export and import taxes, etc., or in exchange for gold coin at par.

The decree, in part, follows:

"The gold peso, containing 75 centigrammes of pure gold, created by the law of March 25, 1905, will continue to represent the theoretical unit of the Mexican monetary system.

"The old silver peso will no longer be coined, and from the date of this decree will not be considered as legal money.

"The silver coins of the law of March 25, 1905, will continue to be as follows: One peso, 50 cents, 20 cents, 10 cents. All these coins will have a fineness of 0.3000 of silver and 0.200 of copper, and shall be considered as fractions of the gold coin created by the law mentioned above.

"The alloy in the fineness of all the coins mentioned above shall be approximately 0.004 upon the theoretical fineness of 0.800. The alloy in weight by unities shall be 0.1 approximately for all the coins. The alloy in weight of the several coins shall be approximately two grammes per $1,000; that is, for 1,000 coins of $1, or for 2,000 coins of 50 cents, for 5,000 coins of 20 cents each, or for 10,000 coins of 10 cents each. This alloy shall only be used in indispensable cases, and exclusively for the 10 per cent of the weight of the drafts, but putting down in the accountability the real weight that the draft represents.

"Every inhabitant of the Republic shall have the right to present the silver fractional coins to the offices designated by the Financial and Public Credit Ministry, to exchange them for gold coin, provided he asks change for quantities of $20 or more.

"All of the coins created by the present law are of limited legal tender power. Their acceptance is only obligatory in cases of payment of amounts not exceeding $20.

"All the coins created by the present law shall be received by the nation in payment for duties, taxes, etc., without limiting the amounts, and at par with gold.

"The old silver coins of 50, 20 and 10-cent denomination created by the law of March 25, 1905, shall have the same circulatory power so long as it shall be required by the exigencies of the transformation determined by the emission of the new coins. The Executive, when he considers that the market is well supplied, will issue the necessary instructions so that the old coins shall lose their circulatory power and will be considered as pieces of silver bullion."

The old coinage law of 1905, referred to above, provided that the peso coin should be 0.9027 fine and 0.0793 copper, weighing 27.073 grammes and containing 24.438 grammes of fine silver. The 50, 20 and 10-cent coins were 0.300 fine and 0.200 copper. The new pesos weigh 18 grammes and contain 14.5 grammes of pure silver, thus being materially smaller than the former ones. The other coins are of proportionate size with the new peso.

—New York Evening Post.

Our Exportation of Silver

Sixty-four million silver dollars have been melted into bullion by the United States Treasury, most of which has been exported to India. Fifty-eight million dollars of silver certificates have been withdrawn from circulation and destroyed as the silver on which they were secured was melted down. The Treasury still holds 426,000,000 silver dollars, against which $390,000,000 in silver certificates are outstanding. New Federal Reserve Bank notes of the denominations of $1 and $2 and being issued to replace the silver certificates withdrawn.

Not Counterfeit Quarter

Some New Ones Ring "Dead," Due to Faulty Minting.

Washington.—A shiny new quarter that rings "dead" is not necessarily counterfeit. In fact, the chances are that it is only one of the coins containing minute air holes which have slipped past inspection tests of the mints recently. The slight imperfection, invisible to the eye, makes a coin "plunk" like lead.

The Treasury Secret Service recently has received several of these quarters from persons who believed they had discovered bogus coins. In each case, a good quarter was returned and the "dead" money sent to the mint.

A Letter from Uncle George to his Nephew John.

My Dear John:

It is a long lane that has no turning but we are out of the 1918 one now. It is history now and getting older every day. I am expecting great things of 1919. The lane will be smooth—the sky more blue, the sunshine brighter when Peace comes through. For one thing, Jim will come back. Did I tell you he has been made a sergeant? Of course there are several varieties of sergeants—just as there are of coins. Some are bright and uncirculated, free from all scratches and dents. Others show signs of wear and tear—some are even plugged with lead. But what a time there will be when the boys come marching home!

I have had a terrible time the last week. I've been trying to get my den in order. It is certainly surprising, the immense amount of odds and ends that have collected during the last year or two. I have sold as much of the "stuff" as I could, but books and papers are friends—friends that speak only when one wants them to. My collecting friends are mostly of the other variety. They will talk—and about such trivial things too—their own coins and the bargains they have recently picked up. This wearies me greatly when I want to tell them about my own treasures and doings.

I attended a luncheon the other day at a club I am a member of. The guest was a very distinguished man, the Director of Archeology in one of our principal museums. The learned man spoke on money as a medium of value and exchange. He remarked that primitive people's original values were cows and women, and he mentioned the cows first. There was some consolation, of course, in the knowledge that one woman was worth three cows in certain countries, and four in others.

Well, women have increased in values since those days. I would not trade your Aunt off for a twenty-acre field full of the choicest cows.

A funny thing happened the other day. A friend of mine who has been collecting quietly for years, called to see me and of course our conversation was mostly about coins. Speaking of a coin sale, the catalogue of which we had been looking over, he asked if I would send in a few bids for him with my own. He rather reluctantly admitted that his wife objected to his spending any more money upon "those old coins."

What do you think of that! I feel sorry for a man afflicted with that variety of a wife. If I had one like that I'd be ready to trade her off for a cow—and a little one at that.

I have not heard from your old-time friend for some time. I was unfortunate enough some time ago to be able to do him a small favor, and since then I have never heard from him. If you wish to retain a man's friendship, never put it to the strain of placing him under the slightest sense of obligation to you. If you do, the chances are, ten to one, that he will resent it. On the other hand, if you can impress him with the idea that you are under an obligation to him, he will be sure to take an interest in you—and seek to increase your sense of obligation to him.

We have started a Collectors Club in our town—just got it fairly started, and I am expecting great things from it. The only trouble is—or I should

say, the only sign of trouble is, we have admitted two dealers into it. Of course in one sense, every collector is a dealer. But these two made a business of it. They are both very decent men when apart, but they do not mix, and I'm afraid there will be "wigs on the green" some night. They each seemed to object to the presence of the other at the first meeting. But I was in the chair and was determined to have peace at any price, even if I had to fire the pair of them out. If they have anything to fight over they must select some other meeting place than our Club. We are not interested in their disputes. Let them settle it in an open field, or by private and personal correspondence—not in public.

UNCLE GEORGE.

Hugh Decline in the Mark's Value.

Colossal Expansion of Reichsbank's Note Circulation is Given as the Cause.

London, Dec. 11.—The value of the German mark has fallen below 42 to the British pounds. Before the war the mark was worth approximately one shilling or twenty marks to the pound.

At Copenhagen on December 7, 42.28 marks could be obtained for one pound sterling, at Christiana 42.08 marks for a pound, at Stockholm 41.5 and at Berne 41.083. At Stockholm the rate of exchange on Austrian kronen has fallen to 77.20 to the pound sterling.

The rapid depreciation of the value of the mark is probably explained by the statement of the Berlin Reichsbank for the week ended November 30. It shows that the increase in German note circulation during the week amounted to £35,000,000 on the basis of conversion into sterling at 20 marks to the pound, the figures still used for statistical purposes in this connection.

For the year ended November 30 the expansion in the note circulation of the Reichsbank was at the rate of £531,000,000 per annum for the last six months, £660,000,000 per annum for the last three months and £988,000,000 per annum for the last two months.

Valuable Counterfeits

Venezuelan Who Imitated Gold Coins in Platinum Cheated Himself.

Recent shipments of platinum from Venezuela have contained a few of the strangest counterfeit coins ever made—strange in that they are worth about five times their face value.

Many years ago some person in Venezuela or Colombia discovered that the native platinum which was plentiful, made a fine imitation of the old Spanish gold pieces that are still current in South America. He gold-plated them, and a few of them are still in circulation down there.

Now that platinum is worth far more than gold, these counterfeits are veritable treasures to him into whose hands they may chance to come.

—New York World.

Numismatic Notes.

By M. SORENSEN.

Recently three British organizations, the Association of Chambers of Commerce, the Decimal Association, and the Institute of Bankers, agreed on what they consider to be a convenient and desirable decimal system of coinage for their country. The changes they propose are being strongly urged. The pound sterling, universally recognized in the settlement of international transactions, would be retained as the British standard monetary unit. According to the new plan it would be worth 1,000 of the new sub-multiples called "mils". The gold sovereign and half-sovereign would be retained. The silver coins would be the double florin, worth 200 mils or four shillings, the florin, half-florin or shilling, and quarter-florin or sixpence. The nickel coins would be ten and five-mil pieces worth 2.4 and 1.2 pence respectively. The bronze coins would be 4, 3, 2 and 1-mil pieces, the latter being worth .24 pence, or about one-half cent, United States money. The saving in time and energy that this system would effect is incalculable.

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One of the suppressed medals, struck by the Belgians in 1914 as a token of the stricken nation's appreciation of efforts made by America to ameliorate its suffering, has reached our shores. Only a few of the pieces escaped German confiscation, it is understood. The profiles of Belgium's King and Queen ornament the obverse of the medal. Columbia with grain, and destitute Belgium, represented by a family group, appears on the reverse side.

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Since the beginning of the war, according to reports, the mint at Ottawa, Canada, has handled $1,000,000,000 worth of bullion for the British Government and the Bank of England. The claims are made that its recent enlargement has made it capable of treating 250,000 ounces per week by the chlorine process and that it is the largest gold refinery in the world.

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Bronze medals commemorating victory in the war and valor of the American forces would be given every American officer, soldier and sailor under a resolution by Senator Pitman of Nevada, unanimously ordered favorably reported by the Senate Naval Committee.

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Some time last winter a very valuable collection of coins was stolen from a collector in Copenhagen, Denmark. Detectives worked on the case, but to no avail. Recently the coins were recovered, buried in an urn, in the Dyrehaven (Deer Park) near the city. The urn was filled to the brim with silver and gold coins to the metal value of 10,000 kroner.

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King George of England has bestowed on Marshal Foch the Order of Merit. Marshal Foch is the only French holder of this executive decoration.

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More than 150,000,000 silver dollars have been taken from the treasury vaults in the last few months and melted into bullion for export to India and other Oriental countries, where large quantities of silver for small coins were needed to pay soldiers and for trade. A late treasury report showed that the fund of 490,000,000 silver dollars in the vaults six months ago has shrunk to $338,368,000.

In Germany iron was becoming so scarce that enough could not be spared to make all the iron crosses needed to carry out the government's policy of wholesale distribution of war honors. At least, such a condition is strongly indicated by a souvenir from a battlefield that has been received in this country. It is a black and white ribbon which the sender, a medical officer, asserts is one of the many decorations that have been awarded in lieu of crosses. The ribbon was found on the body of a dead enemy.

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General Pershing, in the name of President Wilson, has presented to the three great French military leaders—Marshal Joffre, Marshal Foch and General Petain—and to the British Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, the American Distinguished Service Medal.

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In years gone, by when the Turkish Government found itself in too great a financial stress, and no other resources seemed open, it turned to what is termed "The Treasure of Islam" at Mecca, one of the holy cities of Islam. This treasure has accumulated from offerings made by pilgrims, visiting Mecca. In the mosque, containing Kasbah with the sacred stone, is found three underground vaults. According to commandments in the Koran must every true adherent of the Prophet offer a coin every day while in Mecca, and the money is thrown into the underground vaults in the mosque of Kasbah. This great accumulation of money has never been counted, but as Mecca has been visited yearly by something like 100,000 pilgrims, it is estimated that the yearly offerings amount to about three million francs. The total amount contained in the three vaults is assumed to be 250,000,000 francs, while others put the figure at 600,000,000.

As the financial stress has always been more or less acute in Turkey, and as the country has always been a loser in every war participated in, the government has turned to "the Treasure of Islam" as a last resort when a great calamity befell the country. One of the vaults was opened after the Crimean war in 1854, and another after the Russian-Turkish war in 1878. On both occasions were large sums taken out, and the vaults were again closed. The third vault has not been opened since 1815.

The Turks are at this moment casting longing eyes in the direction of Mecca. But as the treasure is under the guardianship of the Sheriff of Mecca, and as Arabia has dissolved partnership with the unspeakable Turk, it is not likely that he again will get a chance to lay hands on "the Treasure of Islam."

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A press dispatch from London reports that Great Britain has decided to assist the provisional government of Russia by establishing a new rouble currency at a fixed rate of exchange of forty roubles to one pound sterling. Money thus received will be deposited in the Bank of England as an inalienable reserve to insure the convertibility of Russian notes into sterling at the above rate.

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At a convention of numismatists some one ran across a fellow by the name of Coyne, and he thought he had made a find. Recently in looking over a list of names of registrants I noticed the name "Moneypenny." A fiitting name for a coin collector, eh?

Dominion 81-96 A. D. Marshal Foch 1918
Germania Capta.

The Roman Emperor Domitian, second son of Vespasian, became Emperor on the death of his elder brother Titus in 81 A. D. In emulation of his brother's military fame, he entered Germany with a large army. He fought no battles there—he never encountered the enemy. We read that he purchased slaves to figure as captives in triumphal processions in Rome. The Roman Senate—more servile than senates are today—granted him the honors due to a victor, and decreed the issue of a large bronze coin which commemorated the victory he had failed to win. The reverse of this coin bears the legend, GERMANIA CAPTA (Germany conquered), and represents a trophy of German arms. To the left, a German woman is seated in a mourning attitude. To the right stands a German with hands tied behind him, his head turned back; at his feet, a shield and helmet.

In 1918, American, Belgian, British and French troops under the supreme command of Marshal Foch, entered Germany. They will continue there for many moons. Unlike the forces of Domitian, they had encountered the enemy —they did more than this, they drove him back. Today they hold the Rhine—and keep watch on it.

It is hardly probable that any of the Allied Nations will issue coins in commemoration of the conquest of Germany. But why not?

The old Romans were far ahead of us in some things. Their coinage has an educational and historical value that our own lacks. Compare the Roman Commemorative series with our own, and the comparison is not in our favor.

Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society.

The regular monthly meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society was held on Tuesday evening, December 3rd, at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, Pittsburg, Penn.

Meeting came to order at 8 o'clock with Vice-President Doyle in the chair. The members were very sorry to hear of the serious illness of President (Dr.) Wilharm.

Members present: Messrs. Doyle, Kraft, Marlier, Gibbs and Gies.

Exhibitions by members followed:

Mr. Gibbs: 27 foreign gold coins and 40 foreign copper and nickel coins.

Mr. Gies: 1795 half dollar 3 leaves under eagle wing, 1831 and 1847 quarter dollars, 1817 cent with break over the head, 1795 half cent without pole.

Mr. Doyle: U. S. cents 1793 11-J wreath, 1793 9-H, 1795 D-66 plain edge, 1803 two varieties, 1802 two varieties, 1841 proof.

Mr. Kraft: U. S. cents of 1807, 1829, 1830, 1837, 1855.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55.

A. C. GIES, Secretary.

Belated Convention of the American Numismatic Association.

Election of officers, a banquet and several interesting speeches marked the annual meeting of the American Numismatic Association, which was held Dec. 11th at the Hotel Kimball, Springfield, Mass., and attended by about thirty enthusiastic coin collectors. The Association had originally planned a four-days' convention to be held in Philadelphia in October, which was cancelled on account of the influenza epidemic, and the routine business meeting in Springfield was substituted.

The annual reports of the business meeting, which took place at 7:30 o'clock, revealed an active membership during the past year of 527. Carl Wurtzbach of Lee, President of the Association, in his annual address characterized the past year as one of the best in the history of the organization and congratulated the members on their interest and enthusiasm. The activities of the Association are concerned with fostering the interest and science of numismatics, or coin collecting, and Mr. Wurtzbach expressed his expectations of an active year ahead.

The officers who were elected for the coming year were: President, Carl Wurtzbach of Lee; First Vice-President, Dr. George P. French of Rochester, N. Y.; Second Vice-President, R. W. McLachlen of Montreal; General Secretary, John M. Oliver of Springfield; Treasurer, Herbert R. Wolcott of Springfield; Board of Governors, chairman, Waldo C. Moore of Lewisville, Ohio, T. E. Leon of Chicago, F. B. King of Rochester, N. Y., Elmer S. Sears of Fall River, Moritz Wormser of New York.

Following the business meeting at 10 o'clock, the members sat down to a banquet in the rose room and were entertained with various addresses, J. W. Prevost of Springfield acting as master of ceremonies. An interesting description of the different national coin collections of the world was given by S. H. Chapman of Philadelphia, who has seen the collections of the British Museum, of France, Berlin, Rome and Madrid. When he asked to see the collection at Madrid it caused a great flurry, he said, because no one had asked to see it for eighteen years.

President Wurtzbach spoke of the educational value of the Association Others who spoke were Moritz Wormser of New York, F. B. King of Rochester, Charles Frazier, city collector and President of the Springfield Coin Club, Preston B. Pond of Chicopee, Charles T. Shean and W. C. Stone. The convention next year will probably be held in Philadelphia, as originally planned for this year.

Thoubles of the Entente.

Tommy (in Italy)—But look here, Marco, old sport: If twenty-seven francs equal a pound and two lire is worth a bob 'ow many lire change ought I to 'av out of a ten-bob note after spendin' seven francs and tuppence-a'pny?"

—From Punch.

Chicago Numismatic Society.

The December meeting of Branch One, A. N. A., was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Friday, December 13, at 8 o'clock. The following were present: Kelly, Becker, Lawless, Hinckley, Dunham, Boyer, Dr. Luttenberger, Leon, Ripstra, Josephson and Davis. Miss Naerup and Mrs. Ripstra were also present.

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly. Mr. Dunham read a newspaper article concerning the missing gold hoard of the eccentric millionaire, Edward Morrison, who was well known to many of those present, and from whom he had obtained many of the gold coins now being sought. Mr. Dunham also read a short paper, wherein he outlined the policy which he believed the Society should follow. He expressed the opinion that encased stamps and broken bank notes were not proper numismatic material, and this as well as other points brought out considerable discussion. Mr. Dunham also read a short paper on the lives and works of two famous popes, Gregory XIII and Clement IX, which he illustrated by coins struck by each. In this connection he showed a number of photographs of points of interest in Rome which he took while abroad several years ago. Mr. Dunham also exhibited a Nashville medal, struck by the Chicago Numismatic Society, and the Abstract of Title of the famous 1804 dollar of his collection.

Other exhibits were as follows:

By Mr. Leon: Three very fine examples of gold Cob money of Philip IV, of 2, 4 and 8 escudos.

By Mr. Josephson: Half cent of 1795, with the reverse double struck with the die shifted.

By Mr. Lawless: Ten extremely fine and uncirculated cents of various dates from 1808 to 1847.

By Dr. Luttenberger: Strip of four five-cent fractional currency notes of the second issue, and two 1918 silver rupees of the new issue.

By Mr. Davis: Wood's half pennies of 1722, '23, and '24, and a farthing of 1723, two varieties of 1783 Nova Constellatio cents, and a freak dime struck on a bronze planchet .

By Mr. Boyer: Proofs in gold of four Ducat piece of Francis Joseph, dated 1872, and of three types of Guineas of George III, dated 1774, 1787 and 1820, and two Bryan dollars, issued by Spaulding & Co., one with the blank reverse and one with the wheel reverse.

Mr. Hinckley announced that he had persuaded the Crerar and Newberry Libraries to subscribe for the Numismatist.

Mr. Hinckley was authorized to place an advertisement in the Numismatist giving the time and place of the meetings of the Society.

Arrangements were also made so that copies of all papers given at meetings will be given to those members present at the meetings. Several members agreed to prepare papers for the next meeting.

The following officers were elected for the year 1919: President, C. N. Hinckley; Vice-President, A. S. Boyer, and Secretary, R. E. Davis.

Following the election of officers an impromptu auction was held. All items brought good prices and the sale was a decided success.

The meeting was then adjourned.

R. E. DAVIS, Secretary.

Important Meeting of the American Numismatic Society.

The first meeting of the season of the American Numismatic Society was held in the Society's building, in New York, on December 5th.

Its principal feature was a lecture delivered by the well-known numismatist, Mr. Albert R. Frey, on the subject of "Coins and Medals of Charles XII of Sweden," the occasion being the second centennial of the death of the King, which coincided with the date of the meeting.

There was a very large attendance, both of members of the Society as well as citizens of Swedish descent or birth, and Mr. Frey's address proved extremely interesting. It was illustrated by projectoscope views of the very fine collection of coins and medals of Charles XII, owned by the Society, and the principal events of his career, such as the Battles of Narwa and of Pultawa, the Peace of Altranstadt, and the King's Sojourn at Bender, and many others, and finally his death, were shown on these medals.

Among the coins shown were several Riks Dalers, several complete sets of the Baron de Gortz Dalers, and several pieces of Copper Plate Money.

Other items of great interest exhibited in connection with Charles XII were an autographed letter of the King and an old almanac showing the original entry of its owner made in the almanac itself opposite the date of the King's death, November 30th, to the effect that he died on that date at the siege of Frederick's Hall.

Those attending the meeting were very much interested also in the exhibition of U. S. Army and Navy Insignia, which is still continuing on view.

The meeting was presided over by Mr. H. Russell Drowne, acting as chairman in the absence of President Newall, who is absent from New York and engaged in important war work.

Tenth Anniversary Meeting of the New York Numismatic Club.

Owing to the advanced date of the meeting for this month, we have not received the regular report from the Secretary, but through the kindness of one of the members we received the following report of this interesting event.

The December meeting of the New York Numismatic Club was held on December 13th at the new Grand Hotel. This was the tenth anniversary of the Club, and after ten years of service as Vice-President, Mr. A. R. Fry was inducted as President, and a token of esteem was presented to him by the members.

The meeting was made a special occasion by having the wives of the members as guests, and the evening was very successful and enjoyable. Mr. King of Rochester was also present as guest, and Mr. Fry gave a most interesting talk on the "Ten Years of the New York Numismatic Club."

Rochester Numismatic Association.

One hundred fifty-eighth meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association was called to order by President H. H. Yawger on Tuesday, November 19th, 1918.

Members present: Messrs. Yawger, W. H. Amberg, Koeb, Gillette, Horner, L. G. Amberg, King, Maunovry, Bauer, Burling, Loizeau, Borradaile, Clarke, Plumb and Dr. French.

Mr. Bauer received a letter from Mr. Fred E. Merritt stating that he expects to be here for the election and also expects to stay in Rochester for two or three months.

On motion of Mr. King, seconded by Mr. L. G. Amberg, Mr. Bostwick was elected an honorary member of the Association.

The Secretary called on Vice-President Dr. Handler the other day and was pleased to report that the doctor was very much improved.

Mr. Bauer, chairman of the Memorial Medal Committee, showed several more designs of the proposed Memorial Medal.

On motion of Mr. Loizeau, seconded by Mr. King, it was voted that every member endeavor to bring a description or design of the Memorial Medal.

The Secretary was instructed to add on to the next postals he sends out to the members suggesting that they bring a description or design for the Memorial Medal at the next meeting, also that there will be nomination of officers and that there will be an exhibit of a coin collection which is to be sold at auction on Friday evening, December 20th, 1918.

Mr. King, one of the Governors, spoke regarding the officers of the A. N. A., who were to hold a meeting at Springfield, Mass., on December 11th, 1918.

Moved by Mr. Gillette, seconded by Mr. Bauer, that it be the sense of the R. N. A. favoring the re-election of the present A. N. A. officers for another year. Carried.

Meeting adjourned to Tuesday, December 3rd, 1918.

W. H. AMBERG, Secretary.

Negotations to Purchase Mexican Pesos Declared Off

Washington.—Negotiations under which the United States had agreed to purchase 6,000,000 Mexican silver pesos from the Mexican government to be melted and coined into subsidiary silver were declared off today. Mexican representatives were understood to have signified their acquiescence in the arrangement, but acting under instructions from Mexico City they presented new phases which resulted in the withdrawal by the United States of its offer.

The necessity for such a purchase has passed. It was proposed because the mounting price of silver threatened to reach the minted value, but the market now has fallen below that which was to have been paid Mexico. It is understood that the Mexican government is contemplating obtaining the $5,000,000 in gold which it would have received in payment for the silver pesos in another manner not made public. Gold is badly needed in Mexico, where the minted gold coin is scarce and the plans now understood to be under consideration involve relief from this situation by a wider margin than the $5,000,000 which would have been exported from this country.

Numismatic Market Unusually Active

As Indicated by the Following Prices Realized at the Sale Held by B. Max Mehl on December 18, 1918

$20.00 Gold. 1857 O. Very fine	$ 31.75
1907 Old type. Brilliant proof	27.50
1907 New St. Gaudens type. Uncirculated	26.00
$5.00 Gold. 1798 Fine	10.75
1807 New type. Ex. fine	9.25
Complete Set Panama-Pacific Commemorative coins	245.00
1848 $2.50 Gold. California. Very fine	31.00
1850 "Cowboy" $10.00 Gold. Uncirculated	500.00
1851 $50.00 Gold. Good	116.00
1852 $10.00 Augustus Humbert. Fine	16.50
1853 Gold Half Dollar. Eagle. Uncirculated	13.00
$5.00 C. Bechtler AT RUTHERF. Uncirculated	85.00
$5.00 C. Bechtler AT RUTHERFORD. Rare var. Fine	200.00
$5.00 A. Bechtler. Very fine	112.50
$5.00 C. Bechtler AT. RUTHERF. Unc.	30.00
$2.50 Carolina Gold. 70 G. 20 C. Proof	75.00
$2.50 Carolina Gold. 67 G. 21 C. Very fine	71.00
1860 $10.00 Clark, Gruber & Co., Very fine	45.25
1861 $5.00 Colo. Extremely fine	21.25
1850 Mormon $5.00 Gold. Practically uncirculated	48.00
1849 $2.50 Mormon Gold. Fine	78.00
1849 $20.00 Mormon. Extremely fine	352.00
1849 $5.00 Oregon. Extremely fine	156.00
1830 Russia, 6 Roubles, platinum. Brilliant proof	105.00
Foreign Gold. England, Henry V. Noble	12.25
Hamburg. Double Ducat. Ex. fine	8.20
Antonius Pius. Aureus. Very fine	20.50
Persia. Darius III. Dario. Fine	21.50
1652 Oak Tree Six Pence. Crosby 6. Rev. F. Very good	5.25
1787 Massachusetts Cent. Crosby 1-B. About fine	4.20
1787 Connecticut Cent. Crosby 24-G. Practically Unc.	3.15
1787 Crosby 33-L. Rarity 5. Extremely fine	3.15
1787 Crosby 33-Q. Extremely fine	3.85
1787 Crosby 37-I. Extremely fine	3.15
1788 Crosby 5-B. Rarity 6. Fine	2.25
1788 Crosby 16-N. Rarity 5. Extremely fine	4.20
(1681) Mark Newby Farthing. Fine	4.20
1796 Kentucky Cent. Silver. Proof	28.50
1796 Kentucky Cent. Copper. Purple proof	20.00
1786 Vermont Cent. Very fine	6.25
1792 Washington Half Dollar. Copper. Strictly fine	32.25
1776 Continental Dollar. Crosby Plate VIII. Fig. 16. Pewter	10.25
1787 Immunis Columbia Cent. Extremely fine	17.75
Large Cents. 1793 Crosby 9-H. Fine	15.50
1817 15 stars. Uncirculated	6.75
1872 S Hint. Dollar. Semi-proof	6.25
1861 Confederate Restrike Half Dollar. Very fine	8.50
Bryan Dollars. Rare Tiffany Issue	4.05
Issued by Jaccard & Co., St. Louis	8.25
1837 $5.00 Bank Note of Kirtland Bank, Ohio	12.25
Ancient Gold. Egypt. Arsinoe II. Octadrachm	105.00
1836 Gobrecht Dollar. Very fine	16.50
1856 Flying Eagle Cent. Very good	9.50
1875 $3.00 Gold. Brilliant proof	1200.00

This was another fine Mehl Sale—and success. More than 250 bidders were represented. There were in all one thousand lots in the sale, all interesting numismatic material covering a wide range of issues. The complete list showing amounts realized for each lot may be had for only fifty cents.

Rochester Numismatic Association

One hundred fifty-ninth meeting of the Rochester Numisbatic Association was called to order by the President, H. H. Yawger, at the Hotel Rochester, Tuesday, December 3rd, 1918.

Members present: Messrs. Yawger, W. H. Amberg, Bauer, Horner, Simmons, Dr. Handler, Hicks, Burling, Haring, Borradaile, Wolff, Loizeau, Bernstein, Gillette, Koeb, Maunovry, Woodbury, Savage, L. G. Amberg, Clarke, Crandell, Putnan, Dr. French, Plumb and Dr. Young.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Communications received: Letter from Mr. Max Mehl and a letter from Mr. A. S. Bostwick thanking the members for electing him an honorary member of the Association.

Mr. Putnan, the curator of the Rochester Municipal Museum, spoke regarding the R. N. A. collection at the Museum, and said that he would like to see our collection there increased.

Moved by Mr. Borradaile, seconded by Mr. L. C. Amberg, that our first meeting next year, January 7th, 1919, be held at the Museum. Carried.

Mr. Bauer spoke about the collection at the Museum, also regarding the memorial medal and hopes to have the final sketches for the design of the medal at the next meeting.

Nominations were as follows:

For President: Dr. Handler nominated by Mr. Woodbury, seconded by Mr. Gillette.

For Vice-President: Mr. Woodbury nominated by Mr. L. G. Amberg, seconded by Mr. Putnan.

For Vice-President: W. H. Amberg nominated by Mr. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Young.

For Secretary: W. H. Amberg nominated by Mr. Louzeau, seconded by L. G. Amberg.

For Treasurer: Mr. Borradaile nominated by Dr. Handler, seconded by W. H. Amberg.

W. H. Amberg withdrew from the nomination of Vice-President in favor of Mr. J. C. Woodbury.

Meeting adjurned to December 17th, 1918.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Journal Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

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With The Editor

Chicago Sets a Good Example.

Local numismatic societies are of the greatest benefit to those fortunate enough to be members and able to attend the meetings. As a rule, one society is pretty much like another—the only difference being some are more alive Chicago has a real live society. They are not content with having their membership limited to the elect few. They want more members and are not afraid to let this fact be known. They advertise their meetings, and "Visitors cordially welcome" is their motto.

The local daily papers might be used, and an advertisement inserted in the "Personal" or "Meetings to be Held" column: "Wanted—Coin collectors to attend the meeting of———." This would attract the attention of men unaware of the existence of a local numismatic society, and result in accession to the list of members. There are many collectors floundering along the dark numismatic road, who would be glad to see the beacon light. Unless a collector is in touch with some one who knows he is working at a great disadvantage.

Boston, New York, Pittsburg, Rochester, San Francisco, Springfield, St. Louis, also have strong local societies. But no real live town is too small to have one. There is no town in our country without some coin collectors. They may not know each other, but a few lines in the local press would bring them together.

It only requires one real live collector to take the initiative, the rest would be easy and a real live local numismatic society would be the result.

Moneyed Men.

A correspondent writes—"I noted in Mr. Sorensen's "Numismatic Notes" in your last issue, his discovery of the name 'Moneypenny,' which he considered a fitting name for a coin collector. Our city does not boast of a single man with this name. It is however divided between two, who should be good friends. I devoted one evening to the study of a city directory, and found the names of Catchpenny, Crown, Farthing, Mark, Money, Penny, Pound and Sterling These would make a good list of charter members if a numismatic society was started in the city.

The Springfield "Convention."

There seems to have been some difference of opinion among the members present at the Springfield yearly meeting of the A. N. A., held in December, whether it was a really real "convention" or only a business meeting.

If we may judge from the report of the proceedings we should consider it a meeting rather than a convention, and as a meeting it was called by the President. A large amount of business was certainly done—and well done, and the business meeting justified its name.

As was expected, it was decided to hold the 1919 convention at Philadelphia, even though the invitation extended from that city had a string attached to it. "The committee would again notify the association that it would like to have the convention meet in Philadelphia next year (1919), **not earlier than the 20th of September.**"

We have always understood that the fixing of the date was, under the constitution, to be decided by the board of governors, and not by a local committee.

It has been our pleasure to visit Philadelphia more than once, but we are not aware of any mysterious change in the temperature that takes place between the 15th and the 20th of September. If this change occurs on the 15th and from that day life there becomes bearable, why not call the convention for September 15. Why wait as it was decided to do last year, and allow the convention to run into the second week of October?

If the torrid heat of Philadelphia is so greatly to be feared, why not have accepted the invitation from Chicago, or Cincinnati, or if a really cool and temperate climate is desired there is always Montreal. We repeat what we said last year, the end of August, or the first week in September would suit the greater number of collectors far better than the first and second weeks in October.

Gold and Silver.

According to the Bureau of the Mint and Geological Survey, production of gold in the United States and Philippines for 1917 totaled 4,051,440 ounces, valued at $83,750,700 against $92,590,300 in 1916.

Silver production was 71,740,362 ounces, valued at $59,078,100. Production fell 2,674,440 ounces under 1916 figures.

Increase in Federal Reserve Notes.

In the period from August 30, to October 4, gold reserves increased $11,640,000, while Federal Reserve Notes increased $338,296,000. The note increase was twenty-nine times as great as the increase in gold.

Your Subscription for 1919.

If you have not already done so, please forward your subscription for this year. The greater number of subscribers have remitted. A few have failed to do so. Are you one of them. This is a last reminder.

Silver Dollars Drop.

One of the most remarkable items in the monthly circulation statements of the past year, was a drop in the standard silver dollars in circulation during September from $79,480,196 to $12,778,240. This drop of $66,701,956 in silver dollars in one month is the greatest change in any one month for years. It probably represents the melting during the month of a large store of silver dollars carried as a bookkeeping item, as in actual circulation, but which were under the control of the Government.

The Young Collector's Library.

Every collector should have a numismatic library however small, especially every young collector. It is not enough to have a couple of coin catalogues and a premium list or two. These are of great service, but something more is needed.

We would like to recommend a little book, "The Evolution of Coinage" by Dr. George Macdonald. This book is one of "The Cambridge Manuals of Science and Literature," published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York. There are 148 pages and 7 plates. The introductory chapter treats of the primitive system of barter, which existed for centuries, but proved both cumbrous and impractical. It goes on to tell of the first beginnings and the actual invention of money which proved a great relief to early commerce. The price is small (fifty cents) and the book is easily worth many times its cost. If not carried in stock, any bookseller can procure it at short notice.

Is Gold at a Premium?

The question is often asked, "Is gold at a premium, or is it going to be as it was after the civil war?"

By agreement of the great world nations, the buying and selling of gold in large quantities is not permitted, nor is its transportation between countries allowed except under government license. We cannot speak of gold premiums, unless we wish to make a comparison with past times, or some other commodity.

As longs as the nations of the earth stand together, or the allied powers hold supreme control for war and peace, there will be no premium. The allies have regulated between themselves, the price of steel and wheat, and the allotments for each, and until that international alliance is dissolved there will be no chance (or danger) of a premium.

An official world wide premium placed on gold would plunge the commercial world into chaos, and throw us back into the dark ages.

It is gold that studies the world, and when labor and gold look horns, there can only be one result—gold will be the winner.

Pennies.

At a time when the question of new coinage in many different countries, new and old, is a question well above the horizon, it is interesting to glance over the story of one of the oldest of all coins, the British penny. Many other coins there are that are more valuable, and more portable in proportion to their value, but the penny has unquestionably this distinction, that it is the doyen of the British coinage. Long before the pound or the half-crown or even the "nimble sixpence" was so much as thought of, the penny, or penig, as the Anglo-Saxons called it, had right of way from Land's end to Deal and from the Cheviot Hills to Selsea Bill. Indeed, amongst the Anglo-Saxons, the penny had a complete monopoly, but, in Anglo-Saxon days it bore little resemblance to its present form, for, in the Seventh Century, when it first begins to be mentioned, having superseded the still more ancient sceatt, it was a silver coin. It maintained, however, then as now, the same relation with the "pound," although the pound, as a coin, was not then in existence. The penny of the time of Ina, for instance, he who was king of the West Saxons, toward the close of the Seventh century, weighed about twenty-two and one-half toy grains, being thus about one two-hundred-and-fortieth of the Saxon pound weight. The penny is now, of course, a coin of bronze, but its value is still one two-hundred-and-fortieth of the golden pound.

Now, the advocates of a decimal coinage may inveigh against it, and say that antiquity has nothing to do with it, but the penny, which rather prides itself on its ancient lineage, would not rest content with Ina's time, as "a century of origin." It traces its "idea," if not its name, further back still. Its relation to the pound weight, it points out, is evidently derived from the usage of the early Franks and the Franks themselves had retained the Roman division of the libra into twenty solidi, and the solidus into twelve denarii, the denarius being thus the two-hundred-and-fortieth of the libra or pound. So the penny would end by proclaiming itself, like so much else in England, to be of Roman descent, and it would point to the fact that "d" is still its symbol, and that "d" stands for denarius.

As to the penny's poor relations, the halfpenny and the farthing, they were not coined in England till the time of Edward I, but before his time the practice had prevailed of so deeply intenting the penny with a cross mark that it might easily be broken into two or four parts, as the exigencies of the case might require. It was in Edward I's reign, too, that the penny itself began to come down in the world. Debasing the coinage was an all to evident way of "raising money" for the kings of those days to ignore without an effort, and so, from the time of Edward I to the time of Queen Elizabeth, the intrinsic value of the penny maintained its due and just relation to the pound, but by the time of Edward IV the twenty-two and one-half grains had become twelve, and by the time of the Great Eliza seven and three-quarters.

There, however, the downward tendency ceased, and when the penny subsequently took on its "copper expression" it was very conscientious about the matter, and insisted that the copper that went to its making should be worth the value of Elizabeth's silver penny. In this copper expression, however, the penny was preceded by its poor relation, the halfpenny. Charles II first issued a copper halfpenny, and set the style for all subsequent copper coinage by stamping on the reverse the famous and familiar figure of Britannia. The

Britannia of Charles II's halfpenny, however, was no depicted as ruling the waves. The symbolic act was first shown on the tremendous copper pennies of George III's reign, which issued from the mint of Soho in 1797. It was then that a trident was substituted for a spear, which had hitherto appeared on copper coins, and the familiar waves with a ship in place of the previous straight line. There was only one more great change in the penny's long history, and that came in 1860, when the copper penny was recalled, and the bronze penny of today, the penny of "many automatic uses" undreamed of by its copper predecessor, took its place.—Christian Science Monitor.

Coinage of U. S. Mints 1918.

Denomination—	Philadelphia	Denver	San Francisco	Total
Halves	6,634,000	3,853,040	10,282,000	20,769,040
Halves	100,000	.....	.....	100,058
Quarters	14,240,000	7,380,000	11,072,000	32,692,000
Dimes	26,680,000	22,674,800	19,300,000	68,654,800
Nickels	32,086,314	8,362,000	4,882,000	45,330,314
Cents	288,104,634	47,830,000	34,680,000	370,614,634
Total	367,845,006	90,099,840	80,216,000	538,160,846

Philippines

Fifty Centavos	2,202,000	
Twenty Cantavos	5,560,000	
Ten Centavos	8,420,000	
Five Centavos	2,780,000	
One Centavo	11,660,000	
Total		30,622,000

Ecuador

Five Centavos	7,980,000	
Ten Centavos	1,000,000	
Total		8,980,000

Peru

Five Centavos	4,000,000	
Ten Centavos	3,000,000	
Twenty Centavos	2,500,000	
Total		9,500,000

Salvador

Five Centavos	10,000,000	10,000,000

Siam

One Satang	10,000,000	10,000,006
Grand Total		598,262,846

1675-1918---History Repeating Itself.

The medal from which this picture was taken was struck in 1680 and is the only one of its kind known to be in existence. It shows the Germans being driven across the Rhine by the French in 1675.

The ten shields arranged in circular form bear the arms of ten imperial cities in Alsace, that took the oath of allegiance to France in 1680 after a French attack had driven the Germans from the province.

This third of the series of medals bearing an Alsatian history depicts the Rhine as putting a limit to German invasion and proving a benefit to the associated forces arrayed against Germany.

The above medal commemorates the turning of Strassburg into a strongly fortified city in 1683, and thus erecting a barrier against any attempt on the part of Germany to overrun French territory.

The American Journal of Numismatics.

The annual issue of the American Journal of Numismatics, issued by the American Numismatic Society of New York, has just been distributed to its members. If this volume was all that the members received in return for their annual dues, they are more than well repaid. The book is of interest especially to the advanced numismatic student. Typographically it is perfect.

The principal contribution is an extensive and learned article on the Seleucid Mint of Antioch, by Mr. Edward T. Newell. This article is accompanied by thirteen plates illustrating the various coinages of this issue.

Of interest to collectors of Americana is the first "complete" history and list of the Lesher "dollars." This article is by Mr. Farran Zerbe. He writes in his usual breezy and entertaining manner. He also includes a history of the so-called "Sprinkle Dollar."

Mr. T. Spicer-Simson contributes an interesting article on Portrait Reliefs, Medals and Coins in Their Relations to the Life and Art.

This volume, in our opinion, represents the finest issue of its series, and is a distinct credit to the Society and its publication committte composed of Messrs. John Reilly, Jr., Chairman, Howland Wood and Sydney P. Noe.

Important Auction Sale of Coins on Feb. 18th.

The Crichton Sale of rare coins, comprising over fifteen hundred lots of rare coins, medals and bills will be sold at auction on Tuesday, Feb. 18th, 1919. Besides a fine collection of American coins, the sale contains a good assortment of foreign gold and silver, Greek and Roman coins, some rare medals, etc.

Catalogues are now ready and are free to those who intend bidding. Catalogues may be had by addressing B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas.

Acknowledged with Thanks.

We appreciate the interest so many of our readers show in sending newspaper clippings pertaining to coins. We acknowledge the receipt of news items from Messrs. Clegg, Gibbs, Heal, Sorenson and Wormser.

Bring Relics from Egypt.

The Diggings of Over Two Years for the University of Pensylvania

A vessel will be chartered soon to bring to the University of Pennsylvania Museum from Egypt a store of rubies, many of them priceless, unearthed at Memphis, the ancient Egyptian capital, by the museum's explorations began in March, 1915, and continued until last June, when scarcity of labor and the high prices of materials caused a cessation in the work. Dr. Charles Stanley Fisher, leader of the excavating party, packed the relics in boxes which will be put on board ship as soon as a vessel is obtained. When added to the University Museum's Egyptian collections they will form one of the best collections of this kind in the world. The late Eckley B. Cox Jr., financed the expedition.

NUMISMATIC RANDOM REELS

By DELMONT L. ANGELL

Like many men who have followed the lure of newspaper work, or given of their literary ability to the offtimes better paid and lighter character now amplified in current magazines of the present day, I gained my early experience as a typesetter. It was in the pioneer days when the wander-lust was strong in the life of that interesting, if sometimes shabby, and now almost extinct individual—the "tourist" printer. We of the younger generation were taught that this was the finishing touch of paramount importance, and absolutely essential to perfecting ourselves in the art of Gutenberg. Well, in the vernacular of the present day, I did "my bit," and a most generous bit it was, for in those "traveling" experiences I acquired, in part at least, the fundamentals of an education which fitted me for the vocation which had a potent appeal. Among my itineraries was one which took me through the greater part of Canada, and at a time when it was easier to travel than to always secure work. I am now coming to a point which is my alibi for this paragraph. I had drifted into London, Ont., gone to work on the Free Press, and it was while counting the days till pay-day that I inadvertently drifted into a poolroom owned by one Jerry McDonald. It was not the type of poolroom we know today, run for the benefit of idlers and work-slackers, but more of a club room for a decent class of young men, and to my knowledge they were all decent. It had a lunch-room attachment that turned out the famous Canadian pork pies, and the thought of those pies will always keep green the memory of Canada to the writer. Somehow the proprietor was interested in my sojourn in London to an unusual extent and made my stay more than ordinarily noteworthy. But it was during that first week he made of me a friend for life. As may be conjured, I was out of funds, and every time I dropped in his place he handed me a few brass checks for varying amounts, good for anything in the place, and, for the matter of that, in some of the neighboring business places as well, so well was this man respected. Now these same checks are cherished numbers in the Breton series, and the higher values command a price of several dollars ach. I have sometimes heard the so-called beer checks lightly spoken of, which I attribute to a lack of knowledge as to their history, their uses and the important part they played as a medium of exchange in their particular day. As a word of respect to my friend, Mr. McDonald, who added to the interest of the Canadian series, I will state that he is alive, proprietor of a leading hotel in London, and has the esteem as was always his, of the business men of that city.

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Apropos of the Canadian coinage, of which I must confess to a limited acquaintance, how many of the older collectors who lived anywhere along the lakes on River St., Lawrence, remember when men made a living by buying up the big Canadian penny tokens on this side at one cent each and taking them into Canada to be sold for two cents, their face value? I do for one, and what myriads there seemed to be of them! While I am not certain if my memory can carry that far back, it strikes me that many were of "side views," now very scarce tokens in the Breton and MaLachlan lists. No matter how large were the pieces, all passed current in the border towns at one cent each.

A short while back a gentlemen called me on the phone and told me he had in his possession what purported to be a very rare coin; that it was not for sale, but knowing I was interested in collecting them he felt impelled to let me judge it. He had been informed it bore a crown made from the nails in the crucifix, and a lot of other misinformation. As his office was along the line of my usual afternoon walk, I called on him, well knowing, of course, just the coin he had. As he extended a well worn Austrian Kreuzer of the 1816 mintage, his face fairly beamed the joy he felt in showing it to me. I quite agreed with him about its being interesting, and also said there was a traditionary legend about the crown being what he said, but as for telling him that it was as common as spiked helmets in Prussia, I did just what you readers of this magazine would have done—let Dr. George B. French do it.

Obituary.

Fred T. Huddart.

A. N. A. member Fred T. Huddart, president of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society from it organization in 1915, died in San Francisco January 12, aged about 55 years. From serious intestinal trouble extending over several months he had sufficiently recovered to preside at the meeting of the P. C. N. S. held December 17, and was heartily welcomed by the members. A few days later he suffered a relapse, his condition growing more critical to the end.

Mr. Huddart was one of the most active numismatists on the Pacific coast, ever ready to aid the collector, and as an honorary curator of the San Francisco Memorial Museum he encouraged and assisted in public numismatic exhibitions. His collection, both coin and paper, is representative of the American series, being particularly notable for early dated gold pieces. He purchased the collection of the California Pioneers in 1916 and a tempting offer soon after prompted him to dispose to an eastern collector two of the most notable pieces in the Pioneer's collection—the $50 gold bar and California and Massachusetts $5 gold.

He was a successful business man, one of the firm of Woods' Huddart & Gunn, iron and steel commission merchants; an epicure, an affable gentleman of esthetic tastes, one who loved art and nature and who leaves a host of friends. He was a bachelor up to about two years ago and is survived by Mrs. Huddart.

The funeral was held January 15, the P. C. N. S. sending floral tribute and attending in a body. FARRAN ZERBE.

Coins Jingled in Testing Pleurisy.

Novel Methods Used by Physicans in Paris Now.

A novel method for diagnosing pleurisy is described by P. Lereboullet in the Paris Medical. The examiner applies his ear to the patient's chest, closing his other ear, while coins are clinked at the patient's back. The sound of the coins coming through a healthy, normally aerated lung seems distant and dull, while through an affected lung, through solid or homogeneous tissue, a clear, silvery, metallic ring is heard.

Dean of the Stamp and Coin Trade Passes Away.

John Walter Scott, the veteran stamp and coin dealer, died in New York City on January 4, 1919, from pneumonia, after a brief illness.

Mr. Scott was born in London November 2, 1845. He began dealing in stamps in London in 1859 when only fourteen years old. In 1863 he came to the United States, first settling in California, spending some time in gold prospecting. He returned to New York in 1867 and founded the Scott Coin & Stamp Co., and shortly after began editing and publishing the American Journal of Philately. In 1885 he sold his business interests and his journal to Calman Brothers, but in May, 1889, he re-entered business and incorporated the J. W. Scott Co., Ltd., and again established a paper, the Metropolitan Philatelist. In 1916 he again sold out his business and paper to J. E. Henshaw.

His first auction sale of stamps was conducted on May 28, 1870, in New York City. He also held his first English stamp auction in March, 1872.

Mr. Scott was always very active in all philatelic affairs. He was Treasurer of the Association for Stamp Exhibitions, which promoted the New York Exhibition in 1913. He was also Treasurer of the Collectors Club of New York, to which he gave his philatelic library.

At the 1917 convention of the American Philatelic Association held at Alexandria Bay, he was elected President, and re-elected at the Cleveland convention in August, 1918.

While Mr. Scott was not in the last several years actively engaged in numismatics, but his name will undoubtedly remain the best known one to the stamp and coin world for some time to come.

New Mexican Coins Coming into Circulation

Mint Turns Out Gold Pieces and Silver Pesos and Half Pesos—Reforms Apply to Fractional Coin—Statement by Minister of Finance

Monterey, Mexico—The new coinage of Mexico is gradually coming into circulation. The mint in addition to turning out gold-pieces of the denomination of $2.50 and $2, which are equivalent to $1.25 and $1 in American gold, is also coining silver pesos and half pesos of a bullion content somewhat less than their face value. In regard to the new coinage Rafael Nieto, Minister of Finance, said:

"The Government has decided to introduce into the actual monetary system those reforms which are made imperative owing to the scarcity of fractional silver coins. The necessary studies for the introduction of these amendments have long been under way, but it was thought best not to introduce them until the rise in the value of silver had been so accentuated as to make it absolutely necessary.

"This moment has now arrived. This, however, will not interfere with the present monetary system, based on gold—the most solid known. The reforms will apply only to the fractional coins and are made in order to avoid trouble, especially for retail merchants.

"Commencing with the present week coins of $1 face value (pesos fuertes) will be coined, having a fineness of 0.800 and containing 14 grams of pure silver. At the present moment the intrinsic value of these pieces will be about

94 cents in National gold. The old pieces of this denomination had, as mentioned in the foregoing, a bullion or gold value of $1.26. Fifty-cent, 20-cent and 10-cent silver pieces will also be coined, having the same proportionate amount of silver. These new coins will be exchanged by the state for gold, and will be received in payment for all kinds of taxes, contributions, etc., but in the case of private transactions will have only a limited liberatory power, because they have been created solely as fractional coins with a representative value. The government feels certain that these new coins will gladly be accepted by the public, since they come to satisfy a new necessity."—Wall Street Journal.

The New York Numismatic Club.

The regular meeting of the New York Numismatic Club was held at The New Grand Hotel, New York City, Friday December 13th, 1918, President Dr. D. W. Valentine, presiding. The following members and guests were present: Mr. and Mrs. F. C. C. Boyd, Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Belden, Mr. & Mrs. Geo. H. Blake, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Howland Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Smith, Mr. and Mrs. A. K. White and Mr. and Mrs H. Fairbanks, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Swanson, and Messrs. Beesley, Butler, Frey, Proskey, Riley, Weyman, Wormser, Valentine, King and Lipper. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The subject for the evening, "My Ten Years as Vice President of the New York Numismatic Club" was then in order. Mr. Frey stated that ten years and two days ago there gathered at Keen's Old Chop House about twenty-five collectors to organize and found the New York Numismatic Club, where those interested could spend a pleasant evening discussing numismatics and exhibiting coins, etc. Mr. Frey spoke in praise of all our Presidents and stated that out of the one hundred and twenty meetings he had been called to take the chair by reason of the absence of the President, only about twenty to twenty-five times, thus indicating that our Presidents, at any rate, were not remiss in their duties. Mr. Frey's address will be printed in full in the next Year Book. A rising vote of thanks was extended to Mr. A. B. Frey.

The executive committee reported that at our next meeting would be exhibited the coins of Genoa and Finland.

The election of officers was then in order. Moved by Mr. Weyman, seconded by Mr. Wormser, that the Secretary cast one ballot for the election of entire ticket as proposed by the Nominating Committee. Motion carried.

The Secretary reported the unanimous election of the candidates for 1919.

Under the head of new business. Mr. Boyd moved that the Medallic Art Committee be empowered to have made dies for a Presidential Medal with the likeness of the President, Dr. D. W. Valentine, and the Club Seal on the reverse. Motion carried.

Dr. Valentine then presented to our retiring Vice-President a mahogany case inscribed "Presented to A. R. Frey by the members of the N. Y. N. Club as a token of esteem and appreciation 1908-1918."

Dr. Valentine then vacated the chair and introduced the President for the coming year, Mr. A. R. Frey.

The President in his opening speech called attention to some deficiencies

which in his opinion should be remedied.

Concerning the subjects to be brought up in for discussion in the future, the President stated that the coming year, 1919, represented the anniversary of numerous important historical events and he suggested that exhibitions be made to conform to said anniversaries.

The following are examples:

In 1519, Charles V, the grandson of Ferdinand and Isabella, became the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire.

Ferdinand Magellan left Seville, August 10th, 1519, and sighted the coast of South America near Pernambuco, Brazil, November 29th, 1519. In the same year Cortes was sent out to conquer Mexico and the Reformation began in Switzerland at Basle.

The Thirty Years War broke out on May 23rd, 1618, by an insurrection at Prague. On August 28th, 1619, Ferdinand became Emperor and Gabriel Bethlen of Transylvania associated himself with the Bohemians against the Emperor. The Duke of Buquoy, the leader of the Imperial trips in Bohemia, defeated Ernest, Duke of Mansfield, at Nadelitz, in 1619.

In 1819, Florida was purchased from Spain and admitted as a territory; in December, 1819, Alabama was admitted as a State. Singapore in Malaca became a British colony in the same year. Queen Victoria was born on May 24th, 1819, and would have been one hundred years of age had she lived until next May.

Many of these historical events could be celebrated by exhibitions and lectures.

Regularly moved and seconded that a vote of thanks be extended to our outgoing President, Dr. D. W. Valentine. Motion carried.

Mr. Moritz Wormser spoke of his trip to the A. N. A. Convention at Springfield and of the good time he had then and at the Hartford Museum.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45.

F. C. C. BOYD, Sec'y and Treas.

The regular meeting of the New York Numismatic Club was held at the New Grand Hotel, New York City, Friday, January 10th, 1919, President A. R. Frey presiding.

The following members were present: Messrs. Boyd, Besseley, Butler, Frey, Kohler, de Lagerberg, Miller, Proskey, Smith, Swanson and Wormser.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The subject of the evening, "The coins of Genoa and Finland" was then in order. The exhibits were as follows: Mr. A. R. Frey displayed a specimen of the large Gold 96 lira issued by the Genoese Republic in 1796 and a Genovina D'oro struck under Conrad II (1139-1152). Mr. Rud Kohler displayed Gold 10 markkaa 1882 Finland. Mr. D. Proskey exhibited the following: Dual City Subway 1913 Citizens Banquet Medal; Tunis 3 proofs of silver, 1294 A. D.; Finland Gold 10 marks, silver 25, 50 Pennia, 1 and 2 marks 1865-1911, 31 pcs.; Copper 1-5-10 Pennia 1865-1912, 48 pieces; Genoa silver all sizes from the smallest to the broad double crowns, 52 silver and 6 copper coins. Mr. L. de Lagerberg displayed the Swedish Riksbank 250th Anni. Commemoration Medal signed by Eric Landberg, 1668-1918; and Placquette of Pennsylvania University designed by Albert Laessle.

President Frey made the following appointments:

Paper Money Committee for 1919, Dr. D. W. Valentine, chairman, D. Proskey, F. C. C. Boyd, G. H. Blake; and as curator, Mr. F. C. C. Boyd.

The Executive Committee reported that at the next meeting the coins of Regusa, Monaco, San Marino, Italy as a kingdom since 1860 would be the subject for the evening. Regularly moved, seconded and carried that the club accept with approval the report of the executive committee.

The Membership Committee reported favorably on Mr. M. W. Lipper, 20 New street, New York City. Mr. Lipper was elected a member unanimously.

The President greeted our member, Mr. Henry C. Miller and stated that owing to the fact that Mr. Miller so seldom attended the meetings, that it was up to him now to say a few words. Mr. Miller stated that he was very pleased to see the club doing so well and that he always enjoyed our meetings. He spoke of his collection of Colonial coins and informed us that he was working on his Connecticut Cents of which he has three hundred and seven varieties and that in the near future same would be published. This started a general discussion on the subject of "Connecticut Cents."

The secretary reported a donation from Mr. M. Marcuson, Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Smith reported the death of our ex-member, Mr. J. W. Scott, the veteran stamp dealer of New York.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p. m.

J. C. C. BOYD, Secretary and Treasurer.

Springfield Coin Club.

The Seventy-first meeting of the Springfield Coin Club was held in the rooms of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce January 8th, with President Frazier in the chair. Members present eleven: Curtis, Emery, Frazier, Fuller, Morse, Oliver, Pond, Stone, Wolcott, Whipple and Morris. Visitors one.

The name of Ernest N. Bagg was then proposed by Mr. Frazier and upon motion duly seconded and carried the rules were suspended and Mr. Bagg was made a member, without the usual one month lay over.

Reports of the committees were then called for. Mr. Oliver, chairman of the Convention Committee, reported there were twenty-six at the convention of which twenty-one were members of the A. N. A., and five were visitors. Twenty-five members of the S. C. C. were present.

The chairman of the Entertainment Committee, Mr. Morse, expressed his regrets that the entertainments had not been better; the reason being the conditions caused by the war, and he thanked those that had supported him.

Mr. Oliver, chairman of the Membership Committee, reported there had been only one new member admitted. Mr. Curtis, the librarian, then rendered his report which showed a substantial increase to our library.

Election of officers for the ensuing year then took place which resulted in W. S. Fuller being elected president, W. S. Stone, vice president, A. W. Morris, re-elected secretary and treasurer.

Albertus J. Morse, mayor of Northhampton, presented the club with a medal commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of the Three County Agricultural Society, and our fellow-member, J. E. Morse, presented the club with

a catalog dated 1860; the catalog being for a sale of Bangs-Merwin and Company.

The President than made his appointments for the year, which were as follows:

Entertainment committee, Stone and Prevost; Membership committee, Oliver and Pond; Publicity Committee, Frazier and Morse; Auctioneer, Curtis, Librarian, Emery; Curator, Frazier.

At a spirited motion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

A. W. MORRIS, Secretary.

Rochester Numismatic Association.

The 160th and annual meeting the Rochester Numismatic Association was called to order by the President H. H. Yawger, Tuesday, Dec. 17th, 1918.

The following members were present: Messrs. Yawger, W. H. Amberg, Merritt, Koeb, Clarke, Dr. Handler, Woolsey, Savage, Woodbury, Maunovry, Burling, Horner, Simmons, L. G. Amberg, Loiseau, King, Plumb, Dr. French.

Mr. Merritt exhibited a collection which is to be sold Dec. 20th, 1918. The collection consisted of Greek, Roman, United States gold and silver coins, two collections of United States gold coins and half cents and a number of united States colonial and pattern coins in splendid condition.

Mr. Merritt donated an Illinois Centennial Lincoln half dollar to the R. N. A. for their collection at the Rochester Municipal Museum.

Mr. King, one of the board of governors, attended the A. N. A. annual meeting which was held at Springfield, Mass., on Dec. 11th, 1918, and reported that the officers of the A. N. A. were re-elected for the coming year, and that the 1919 convention would be held at Philadelphia, also spoke regarding the tenth annual meeting of the New York Numismatic Club which he attended on the invitation of Mr. Moritz Wormser and spent a most enjoyable time with them.

Moved by Mr. Merritt, seconded by Mr. L. G. Amberg, that we have our annual dinner on the meeting night of January 21st, 1919. Carried.

The president appointed the following committees: Dinner committee, Mr. King, chairman, Mr. Yawger, Mr. Loizeau. Entertainment committee, Dr. French, chairman, Mr. Bauer, Mr. Borradaile.

Moved by Mr. Merritt, seconded by Mr. Woodbury that Mr. King act as chairman during election. Carried. W. H. Amberg withdrew from the nomination of secretary for 1919. Moved by Mr. Merritt, seconded by Dr. Handler that Mr. King be nominated for secretary. Carried.

Election of officers being next in order, it was moved by Mr. Loizeau, seconded by Mr. Merritt, and carried that the secretary cast one vote for Dr. Sigmund Handler, president, Mr. John C. Woodbury, vice-president, Mr. Fred B. King, secretary, Mr. Claude T. Borradaile, treasurer, who were duly installed as officers for the ensuing year.

After the meeting the members sat down to a buffet lunch, and a most enjoyable evening was spent in coin talk and numismatic stories.

Meeting adjourned to January 7th, 1919.

W. H. AMBERG, Secretary.

Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society.

The regular monthly meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society was held on Tuesday evening, January 7th, in the Society's room in the Carnegie Institute of Technology. Meeting came to order at 8 p. m. with the President, Dr. Wilharm, presiding.

Members present: Dr. Wilharm, Messrs. Kraft, Gibbs, Marlier, Gies.

Exhibits of the evening:

Mr. Marlier: Three large Roman Bronze, 5 Silver Greek coins including a Tetradrachm of Syracuse, all in extremely fine condition and caused much comment. Also Gold Stater of Alexander the Great, Aurcus of Faustina, and a Triple Ducat of Austria 1750; Silver 6 Shilling of Bank of Ireland 1804, 1½ Ruble 1835.

Mr. Gibbs: Twenty-nine foreign Silver Crowns of various countries.

Mr. Kraft: Cents, 1795 thick planchet lettered edge, 1796 Liberty Cap, 1796 Fillet Head, 1802 double fraction, 1812 cracked obverse die, 1831, 1851 over 1881.

Dr. Wilharm: Thirty-one Foreign Silver Crowns and 8 Half Crowns. Hard Times Tokens, low 151.

Mr. Gies: U. S. Cents 1795, 1814, 1828 small date.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 p. m. Next meeting night Tuesday, February 4th, Carnegie Institute of Technology, at 7:30 p. m. All interested parties are invited to attend.

A. C. GIES, Secretary.

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society.

The forty-second meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society was held Dec. 17 at the office of the Secretary, room 329, 235 Montgy street, San Francisco.

The meeting was called to order by its President, Fred T. Huddart. This was the first meeting he had been in the chair since May 28th, 1918, his absence having been caused by sickness.

Members present: Messrs. Huddart, Haagensen, Haigh, Hill, Gill, Reimers, Mohr, Thomas, Twitchell, Zerbe and Steinman.

Upon motion of Mr. Steinman, seconded by Mr. Zerbe, it was moved that a vote of sympathy be extended to Frank G. Duffield, editor of "The Numismatist," in the great sorrow which had befallen him, in the death of his daughter and her husband, and also to Mr. Carl Wurtzbach, the President of the A. N. A., in the death of his wife.

Mr. Gill presented the name of W. F. Healy of Los Gatos for membership in the Society. Mr. Healy was unanimously elected.

Upon motion a vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Jos Haigh for his gift to the Society of a coin tray to be used to display coins during the auction.

Further business was dispensed with in order to display the members' exhibits, and to hold an auction sale.

Mr. Huddart showed a U. S. $2.50 piece 1796, without stars in extra fine

condition, also a U. S. $10.00 piece 1795, and $5.00 piece 1796 both nearly uncirculated.

Mr. Zerbe showed a miscellaneous collection of U. S. silver coins.

Mr. Zerbe was appointed auctioneer for the evening, and through his efforts the sales were numerous, and a great deal of enthusiasm was aroused.

The meeting then adjourned until Tuesday, Jan. 28th, 1919.

I. LELAND STEINMAN, Sec'y-Treas.

Copper.

Copper on the battlefields of Europe will be salvaged by the allies. Without taking into consideration Servia, Roumania, Turkey and Russia, it is estimated that 3,000,000 tons of copper in various forms lie strewn about or buried in the ground in France and Belgium. It is estimated that about one-third of this amount or 1,000,000 tons may be recovered by modern methods in metal refining. This would mean two billion pounds of copper, or more than the entire output of the United States in any one year. What proportion of this salvage England and the United States will receive is a question for the peace congress to determine. Germany, it is claimed, bought something like 2,00,000 tons annually for at least five years prior to the war. But Germany is now almost bare of copper and she was compelled in the early part of last year to strip churches, roofs, and kitchens of this metal. Under normal conditions her purchases of copper in this country have not been more than 20,000 tons a year. The rest she has gotten from the Mansfield mines in Germany, which were opened A. D. 1199. They were very profitable during the 14th and 15th centuries. After a lull in operations, activity was resumed in 1671, but the present Mansfeld Cooperchist Mining Co., was not formed until 1852. It has now an average production of about 45,000 pounds annually.

The part these old mines have played in the military history of Germany in recent years, is as vital as the fact that the father of Martin Luther worked in them, and the great reformer as a boy went to them day by day carrying the dinner pail of his sire.

The copper mines of Cornwall, England, are more a part of the history of Great Britain than either the Thames or Westminster Abbey, and it was these mines that in a measure led to the extension of the Roman Empire to the shores of the present British Empire.

The only copper mine of importance that remains to the world out of the shadows of antiquity is the Rio Tinto, of Spain, the first account of which is dated back to about 1100 B. C., worked successively by the Carthaginians, Romans, Goths, Moors, Spanish, and lastly by the English in whose hands the old mine remains today.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Monthly Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

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With The Editor

Double Number for March and April.

Those who have had business intercourse with printers in the recent past, know something of the handicap the printing fraternity have been laboring under, due to the lack of sufficient skilled assistants. These conditions were still further augmented by the oil boom of this vicinity, so much so that some of our printing orders have been delayed from thirty to sixty days.

This delay and inability to issue the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY promptly for the past few months, together with the great amount of time necessary for its successful publication, almost prompted the editor to discontinue it for the time being at least. However, after communicating with a few friends, and after returning quite a few new subscriptions and renewals, we began to receive such a spontaneous protest from these subscribers that it immediately dispelled our intentions of the discontinuance of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY even for a specified period.

This little instance brought home to me the fact that the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY is not only well thought of but that it was being appreciated by and is of value to a great host of readers. And this renewed expression of appreciation will simply serve as a source of much encouragement to me to strive to make the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY of greater interest and value and to prove worthy of the fine support it has been receiving from the Numismatic Fraternity for these past ten years.

We have therefore combined the March and April numbers and will issue the subsequent numbers promptly during the early part of each month.

B. MAX MEHL.

The Allies May Wear Identical Medal Ribbons.

At a session of the peace conference now being held in Paris, the Supreme War Council agreed to recommend for the approval of the governments concerned, the issue of an identical medal and ribbon to all the forces of the allied and associated powers who have taken part in the war.

President Wilson, General Pershing, Lloyd George the British premier, Marshals Foch and Haig and others were present, and in favor of this step. It is, however, more than possible that the different governments may not all agree, should they do so, the proposed medal would have the largest issue of any war medal ever struck.

French Canadians Want Dual Language on Canadian Coins

A Roman Catholic Club in Quebec Province is making a strong propaganda in favor of having the values on Canadian coins given in French as well as in English.

This would be nothing new in the Canadian series, as both French and English were used on the bank tokens of Lower Canada, B 521-522 & C. which were, however, only semi-official issues.

A difference of opinions exists in Canada as to which should be considered the obverse and reverse of these tokens. The French Canadians consider Breton's obverse as correct—but many English speaking Canadians consider Breton's reverse to be the true obverse, claiming it to be the side of most importance having the arms of the bank responsible for its issue, the date, and value and the legend is English.

In the Bank of Montreal 1842-4 tokens, Breton rather evaded this issue. For the penny he gives the side showing the bank as the obverse—but in the half-penny he makes it the reverse. Which is right? Will some Canadian collector enlighten us on this point?

Papal Peace Medal Struck.

From Rome, "The Eternal City" comes word that a Pontifical medal to commemorate the coming of peace has been struck. On the obverse the medal bears the figure of Pope Benedict, with the inscription "Benedictus XV. Principis Pacis Vicarius." On the reverse is a figure of the Redeemer with an angel on either side, representing peace and justice.

"The Numismatist." The Paper Money of the Confederate States.

There is an old saying "Good wine needs no bush." However true this may be—"The Numismatist" needs no words of ours to commend it to the collectors of this continent. All know and appreciate its value. Never has this been more ably demonstrated than in the publication of Mr. H. D. Allen's most valuable papers on "The Paper Money of the Confederate States," the last installment of which appeared in the February issue. These papers which have been fully illustrated are veritable mines of knowledge into which all interested in this series can delve, and find data of the greatest value to all.

It is to be hoped that the complete series of papers will be published in separate form as they will for many years rank as the text-book on this interesting and historical series.

The February issue contains many other good things. The annual report of the American Numismatic Society is of especial interest, a wonderful record of work well done during the past year by this venerable society, which despite its many years shows all the verile energy of youth.

The Philadelphia Convention "Invitation."

From a personal letter recently received we extract the following: "I was glad to read your comments on the "invitation" from Philadelphia for the A. N. A. Convention. I sincerely trust that an early date will be decided upon as I consider it a huge joke to hold the convention so late in the season. It may be that some of the Philadelphia members have their summer already planned out for other entertainments or vacation trips, and therefore want the convention held when it is most convenient to themselves, regardless of the convenience or desires of the great majority of the members. Out of all the conventions held in this country, ninety-five per cent or more are held during the months of June, July or August.

Most men can manage a week's vacation during August, or the early part of September, but by October they have to be back in harness again. Business comes and must take precedence of pleasure. Let the convention be held at a time when the greatest number of members will find it most convenient to attend."

We quite agree with our correspondent and have yet to hear of any good reason for holding an October convention.

The Question Box.

There is not a week passes that we do not receive some questions which we are requested to answer in "The Question Box." We are at all times willing to give the young collector a helping hand, but fully eighty-five per cent of the questions asked should not be sent to us. Every one interested in the number of coins of any denomination issued by the United mints in any one year, can find full records in the annual report of the Director of the Mint, Washington, D. C. This will be sent free of cost on application to him, **not to us.**

Catalogues of the silver and gold coins of the world can also be easily obtained at a small cost. Our "Star Coin Encyclopedia" contains a huge mass of information of value to all collectors. Before sending questions to us—look up these books. If you cannot find what you want to in these, write to us and we will do our best to help you.

A WIFE'S PROTEST

Mr. Mehl:

Dear Sir: No doubt you will be astonished to receive this letter from me, but I should like you to know that my husband is not a millionaire and really he cannot afford to invest so much money in old coins as he has been doing of late. I simply think he is crazy to buy so many coins. I call it throwing his money away and goodness knows he has to work hard enough for it. You may wonder why I should write to you instead of telling him what I think. I have talked to him until I am sick and tired of doing so and its no use my trying to reason with him so I am writing to you. He is simply throwing his money away and has nothing but a few old coins to show for it. I suppose you are not the only one selling coins in this country but you seem to be about the only

one he buys any amount from. He receives other catalogues but just glances over them and throws them aside, but after one of yours comes he sits reading it evening after evening and marks it all over with figures of how much he intends to bid.

When he is not looking at your catalogues or paper he is pottering about his old coins brushing them up and putting into envelopes and packing them away in boxes, or putting them in little drawers he has in his cabinet. He is too busy to go out with me to make a visit or to go to a concert or the movies. In olden times when a man got married during the ceremony he said to the bride, "This gold and silver I thee give. With all my worldly goods I thee endow." But today he does not include his old coins in these gifts and endowments, he draws a line at them, and is as jealous of me seeing or touching them as our dog is of a bone he has buried in the back garden.

Things might not be so bad if Dad would only handle me differently, the least he might do is to tell me a little about what he is doing and why. But I expect he thinks I would make a big kick if I knew how much his coins cost him, so he treats me as if I were not capable of understanding his old coins—as if I were only a child.

He is a good man, kind and generous to a fault—especially if it is his own. but he is too much wrapped up in the old coins. Why can't he collect old postage stamps, goodness knows there are much cheaper. My little son buys a whole thousand for a quarter and it takes him weeks to find out where to paste them in a book. But just because stamps are so cheap dad doesn't value them, he must have coins. I'd like to tell you what I think about that article in your January number. Any man who could make a joke about trading his wife off for a coin is no man, only an excuse for one. I don't think that Uncle George ever had a wife. If he had he would show more respect for womanhood than he did. You should not have printed such a thing. Perhaps you are surprised at my reading your paper but sometimes wives read them on the side just to see what it is that interests their men so much. Dad gets two papers all about coins, but yours is the only one he reads. He says the other is too highbrow for him and mostly full of reports of meetings that men go to just to see their name in print afterwards.

I am writing to you to ask you not to send dad any more coins for some time, but if you cannot do this only send him a few of what he asks for. I expect he would be fine and mad if he knew I had written to you.

A KICKING WIFE.

It seems to us there is some misunderstanding on both sides here. It might be better if the husband explained how interesting he found his collection, and the pleasure he took it it. We fancy he would gain the sympathy of his wife—she shows this in her letter and is simply a little jealous of his interest in coins. At the same time we wish to say, **the money spent in coins is not money wasted.** The collector who has paid good money for good coins can always rely on getting the greater part of it back if for any reason he wishes to turn his collection into cash again. In many cases he would get even more than he paid for certain coins, as many increase in value during the years of collecting. **The money spent cannot be a total loss.** We are sure that "Uncle George" had no desire or intention of insulting womanhood in the letter referred to. His remark about the value of his wife proves that.—Editor.

Coins and Medals Relating to Peace Treaties.

Exhibited at the March Meeting of the New York Numismatic Club.

By MORITZ WORMSER

1 Magdeburg "Interim" Thaler, (1550).
2 Peace of Passau 1555. 1855 Thaler, struck in commemoration of 3rd Centennial by Frankfort.
3 Peace with the Turks. 1604. Holy Roman Empire. Emperor Rudolf II.
4 Convention of Leipzig, 1631. Saxony Medal.
5 Peace of Westphalia, 1648. Broad Medallic Thaler.
6 Peace of Westphalia, 1648. Medallic Thaler.
7 Peace of Westphalia, Hamburg, 2 ducats on celebration of anniversary 1649.
8 Peace of Westphalia, Regensburg Medallic Thaler on celebration of anniversary, 1649.
9 Peace of Westphalia, Nurnberg 1649, square "Hobby-Horse Ducat."
10 Peace of Westphalia, Saxony Gotha Thaler 1650, upon celebration.
11 Peace of Westphalia, Saxony Electoral line, Triple Thaler, upon celebration.
12 Peace of Westphalia, 1st Centenary, 1748, Dutch Medal.
13 Peace of Westphalia, 1st Centenary, 1748, Leutkirch, ducat.
14 Peace of Westphalia, 1st Centenary, Kaufbeuern, Medal.
15 Peace of Nymwegen, 1679, Mayence Thaler of Arch Bishop Anselm Francis.
16 Peace of Ryswick 1697, Mayence, Ducat.
17 Peace of Ryswick 1697, Mayence Ducat, different type.
18 Peace of Ryswick 1697, Mayence, Double Ducat.
19 Peace of Ryswick, Anniversary Celebration Thaler, of Nurnberg 1698.
20 Peace of Ryswick, Anniversary Selebration, 5 ducats, 1698, Nurnberg.
21 Peace of Rastatt, 1714, ducat of Baden.
22 Peace of Breslau, 1742, Satyrical Medal upon Pragmatic Sanction.
23 Peace of Aix-La-Chapelle 1748, Medal.
24 Peace of St. Hubertusburg, 1763 Nurnberg Thaler.
25 Peace of St. Hubertusburg, 1763 Austria Medal.
26 Peace of St. Hubertusburg, 1763 Hamburg, ½ Portugalese.
27 Peace of Teschen, 1779 Thaler, Brandenburg-Ausbach.
28 Peace of Basle, 1795. Fred'k. William II of Prussia.
29 Peace of Frankfurt 1871, Prussia Thaler.
30 Peace of Frankfort 1871, Bavaria Thaler.
31 Peace of Frankfurt 1871, Saxony Thaler.
32 Peace of Frankfort 1871, Bremen.

Remarks.

It was correctly stated that the number of coins and medals struck to commemorate peace treaties is very large; yet after spending some time in looking over my collection, I could only muster the above comparatively small exhibit. It is quite varied however, and presents a concise survey over European history for the last 450 years.

An admirable work on the subject is the auction catalog of our fellow member, Mr. M. Schulman, of a sale held in October, 1913, entitled "Pax in Nummis," to which I have had reference, and the arrangement of which I followed, i. e. in chronological order, but grouping anniversaries immediately after the original event.

No. 1 commemorates satyrically the very temporary religious compromise, in 1550, known as the "Interim," by which the contentions between the Protestants and Catholics were patched up in a manner satisfactory to neither side, and the coin, struck by the city of Magdeburg, represents the Interim in the shape of the Devil, with the sentiment, "Get thee hence, Satan, thou Interim."

These religious differences were more permanently and satisfactorily adjusted a few years later by the Treaty of Passan in 1555, which was to keep the religious bones of contention in balance for about 50 years at any rate, and No. 2 represents the 3rd Centennial of this event, celebrated by the City of Frankfurt.

No. 3 is an interesting oval medal struck by Emperor Rudolf 11, upon a treaty with the Turks, in 1604, the name of which, however, does not appear.

No| 4 is a medal, celebrating a convention concluded at Leipsic in 1631, for the purpose of further adjusting religious matters under dispute.

The succeeding series, Nos. 5 to 14, commemorate the all important Peace treaty of Westphalia, which brought to a conclusion the terrors of the Thirty Years War, and pacified warring Europe for a few years, as well as various celebrations held upon its ratifications, and upon its centenaries. Thus No. 7 commemorates the celebration of the City of Hamburg; No. 8 with the picture of Noah's Ark and the Dove of Peace that at Regensburg; No. 9, the celebration at Nurnberg, when the Imperial Delegate, Count Piccolomini, was honored by a parade of boys on hobby-horses, to whom these coins were thrown as prizes; and No. 11, a very fine Triple Thaler, of the Elector John George of Saxony. The Centennial celebrations in Holland, at the towns of Leutkirch and of Kaufbeuern, are memorialized in Nos. 12, 13 and 14.

The next series show peace treaties, incidental to the wars against Louis XIV of France; the attractive Thaler of Arch-Bishop Anselm Frances of Mayence, No. 15 with a scale weighing the olive-branch of peace against the sword of war, for the Peace of Nymwegen in 1679; and the three gold coins of Lothar Francis, archbishop of Mayence (Nos. 16-18) with the emblems of Peace in the shape of Concordian Pax, and an altar.

The anniversary of this Treaty was apparently celebrated with some consequence at Nurnberg in 1698, as the Thaler and 5 ducat piece, of similar dies, Nos. 19 and 20, were issued there.

The treaty, though called a "universal peace" did not last long however, being only a scrap of paper, as only a few years later the war of the Spanish succession again engulfed Europe in the throes of war.

While the peace treaty of Utrecht terminated this war for some of the involved powers, France and Germany came to an understanding only about 2 years later, at Rostatt in the lands of Ludwig, the young morgrave of Baden, under the guardianship of his mother, Frances Sybilla, who issued the attractive ducat No. 21 ,showing their conjoined heads.

The following group recall to us the wars of that old militarist expert, Frederick the Great; No. 22, a Dutch satyrical medal upon the woes of Maria Theresa, showing four powers attempting to cut up a map of her lands at the peace of Breslau in 1742; Nos. 24, 25 and 26 upon the blessings of peace after the treaty of St. Hubertusberg following the burdens of the Seven Years' War, and No. 26 particularly showing the Temple of Janus closed; finally No. 27 upon the Peace of Teschen, concluded between Bavaria, Prussia, Austria and Saxony.

No. 23, belongs to this period and is especially interesting, commemorating the peace treaty of Aix-La-Chopelle, in 1748, between France, England and the United Provinces, and at the same time an eclipse of the sun. One side shows the sun in eclipse, above a landscape, emblematic of war; and the other, part of the globe, radiant with sunshine to which the dove of peace ascends. To quote the above mentioned catalog:

"After the definite conclusion of the Peace of Aix-La-Chapelle, the preliminaries of which had already been signed the night of April 30-May 1st, an eclipse of the sun appeared, on July 25, 1748, which was visible in Europe, Asia and Africa. When a short while later, the sun shone brightly again, the hope of peace was again revived."

No. 28 belongs to the period of the wars incidental to the French Revolution, when in April 1795 the Peace of Basle was concluded between France and Prussia, by which Prussia dropped out of the coalition of European soverigns, against the Young Republic.

The last four numbers finally commemorate the end of the Franco-Prussian war in 1871, as celebrated by several of the constituant political parts of the German Empire, that of Saxony with a figure of peace astride a horse being particularly attractive, even though it shows the characteristic German exultant militancy.

The Cards of Jerry McDonald, London, Ont.

I was much interested to see in Mr. Angell's Numismatic Random Reels," in your last issue, some particulars of the cards issued by Jerry McDonald, London, Ont. Besides the check illustrated in Breton's catalogue, B. 757, I have three others issued by him, all differing. These are:

1. Obverse and reverse, JERRY McD.

2. Obverse—J. McD. within a panel; above this, GOOD FOR 5c, and below—IN TRADE. Reverse—SCHULENBURG BILLIARD TABLES.

3. Obverse—a large 5 in centre, and above J. McD. Reverse—JERRY McD. All in brass, size M. 24, legends incused. The "JERRY McD" is hand stamped.

Other scarce London cards unlisted by Breton are the 5 and 10 cent checks of the Grigg House. These are also incused, brass and nickel. A card said by some to belong to this London is that of GEOE BURNS—LONDON. CLOTHING. The reverse has VICTORIA REGINA with bust of the queen to left. Some collectors claim this belongs to London, England, but the majority accept it as a Canadian card. Perhaps Mr. Angell could throw some light on the subject? It should not be forgotten, when considering the value and rariety of the brass "beer checks," illustrated by Breton, that several listed there were only issued for speculative purposes by collectors and dealers. They were never in actual use and have no value whatever. While this only applies to a minority, it has thrown suspicion and discredit on many rare and valuable cards and checks.

S. S. HEAL.

Good Prices Realized at Mehl's Sale of Feb. 18, 1919.

The Following are a few of the Fifteen Hundred Lots of the Crichton Collection, Sold by B. Max Mehl, on February 18.

1652 Willow Tree shilling, very good	$29.00
1652 Oak Tree Shilling	11.50
1652 Oak Tree Shilling. Crosby 3-D.	15.00
1652 Oak Tree Sixpense	8.50
1652 Pine Tree Shilling	12.25
1652 Pine Tree Threepence	5.25
1787 Connecticut Cent, 33 S.	4.80
1787 Immunis Columbia Cent	12.00
1787 Fugio Cent, Unc.	2.25
1788 Vermont Cent	3.25
1722 Rosa Americana, Twopence	6.30
$10.00 1795	35.00
$10.00 1796	40.00
$10.00 1799	20.00
$10.00 1804	41.00
$10.00 1907 St. Gaudens, wire edge	30.00
$10.00 1907 St. Gaudens, wire edge, period	62.00
$ 5.00 1807 New type,	11.00
$ 5.00 1814 Fine,	24.00
$5.00 1817 Ex. Fine,	29.50
$5.00 1820 Fine,	41.00
$4.00 1879 Proof,	105.00
$3.00 1854 D. Mint	42.00
$3.00 1873 Unc.	61.00
$3.00 1883	10.00
$2.50 1796 Stars,	76.00
$2.50 1832	21.00
$2.50 1845 O. Mint, Fine,	40.00
$1.00 Gold, 1864 Ex. Fine	22.50
$1.00 Gold, 1865 Proof,	43.75
$1.00 Gold, 1880 Proof,	7.35
$50.00 1851 U. S. Assay,	125.00
$20.00 1853 U. S. Assay,	33.00
1849 Moffatt $10.00	23.00
Carolina $2.50	60.00
Colorado $5.00, Clarke & Co.	21.00
Mormon $5.00 1849	32.00
Cents. 1793 Wreath, Crosby 9-G.	17.25
1796 Bust Type, Similar to G. 37. V. G.	10.50
1796 Gilbert 15. Unc.	42.00
1799 Very good	35.00
1819 Small date, Unc.	4.20
1821 Ex. Fine	10.00
1822 Wide date, Ex. Fine	7.35
1839 Over '36. About fine	15.50
1846 Low 6. Unc.	4.20
Half Cents, 1793. V. F.	6.80
1804 Plain 4 with stems	19.75
1804 Spiked Chin, Gilbert No. 8	21.00
1804 Spiked Chin, Gilbert No. 11	26.00
1809 Inner Circle	3.75
1826 Leaf high	2.50
1856 Copper nickel	12.00
1792 Half disme	31.50
1860 Half dime, stars	10.00
1796 Dime, Unc.	8.35
1859 Dime, reverse of 1860. Proof	33.50
1853 Quarter dollar, no rays and arrows	8.75
1849 Quarter dollars, O. Mint, Unc.	14.50
1796 Half dollars, V. G. 15 stars	81.50
1836 Milled edge, half dollar	3.00
1877 Pattern Half Dollar, bronze, A. W. 1540	8.00
1871 CC. Half Dollar, Unc.	20.00
1872 CC. Half Dollar, Unc.	15.25
1873 CC. Half Dollar, No arrow heads, Unc.	31.50
1794 Dollar. "Fine for coin	64.00
1852 Dollar, Proof	85.00
1900 Lesher Dollar	12.85

There were in all over 1500 lots. Total realized six thousand dollars. Complete price list showing amounts realized for each lot in this large sale may be had for only 50 cents.

U. S. Half Cents Coming Into Their Own.

At Mehl's sale of February 18th, three 1804 Half Cents, usually classed as a common coin, brought $19.75, $21.00 and $26.00 each, respectively, or a total of $66.75 for the three coins. An 1826 Half Cent brought $2.50, and an 1856 $12.00; an 1803 brought $2.50. All other dates and varieties, of which there were some fifty-eight lots, brought attractive prices, just because they were all catalogued carefully according to their minor varieties.

While Cent Collectors have been busy giving their attention to the minor varieties of the large cents, they have been overlooking a good bet in the series of Half Cents. This series offers an excellent field of research, and contains many really rare and interesting varieties though not so numerous as the large cent series, but sufficient to make the study and collection of them an interesting as well as a profitable one.

We are preparing a detailed list of all the rare varieties of the Half Cents, which we intend to publish in an early issue of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY.

Nearly Three Hundred Bidders Represented at the Crichton Sale.

Another unusually successful sale was the one held by B. Max Mehl on February 18th, when he sold at auction, the Crichton Collection. Nearly three hundred bidders were represented, with good average prices prevailing throughout, with a record here and there.

The Sale contained over fifteen hundred lots of coins and paper money, representing nearly all series of numismatics. Especial interest was centered on the fine U. S. Cents, American Colonials, and the usual active bidding on the United States gold. Bidding on the ancient and foreign series was quite surprising, as much interest was manifested by the bidders for these particular series—a good indication indeed of the awakening of American collectors to the many interesting numismatic channels to be found in the study of the highly interesting and inexpensive foreign and ancient series.

A list of some of the more important prices realized in this Sale is published elsewhere in this issue of the MONTHLY.

One of the Unsolved Numismatic Mysteries.

Numismatic, like other history, has a mysterious side, some unexplained creation, like the hardened copper, found in the mounds of the West, left there by a race of people long since passed away, and such an unsolved mystery is the composition of the one and three-cent patterns of Feuchtwanger, dated 1837

Between 1834 and 1837, our copper currency system, if I may use the term, "ran amuck," in the sarcastic, personal and even ludicrous Jacksonian tokens, especially, which appear with mules, boars, turtles and misers, referring to the stubborn President, and they were followed by the Bentonian, Van Buren, and Substitute for Shin Plaster tokens, with store cards galore.

This evidently aroused the artistic "bile" of a Germnn named Feuchtwanger, who submitted four styles, with one and three cents in a wreath, and on the reverse an eagle on a rock.

These coins somewhat resemble nickel in appearance, but are very hard, and on the genuine no oxide rust or corrosion ever appears; the secret of their composition has gone into the grave with its inventor, and a limited number of the tokens remain, to whet the curiosity of the coin collector, especially the "young brother," who would probably not even know what they were if he should happen to get one.

Mr. D. T. Newell of Waterbury, Conn., posesses a set of these, as naerly perfect as they were when struck from the dies of the old German inventor, and as I stood looking at them into my mind came the query: "What was the formula of the metals in this coin, which holds the properties of many metals, but which no one has yet given a name of its own?" We know the formula of brass, of bronze, of steel, of German silver, and many other compositions, but Feuchtwanger's composition is one of the mysteries of numismatic history, yet unsolved.

Just a Word About Late Copies and Back Numbers of the Numismatic Monthly.

We are not always at fault when you fail to receive the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY on time. Third class matter often goes astray. A slip-up may occur at either end of the line. So please be a little patient if you fail to receive the MONTHLY promptly. It it does not reach you by the tenth to the twelfth of the month, drop us a card and another copy will be sent without cost to you.

But complaints must be received during the month of issue. In other words, complaint for the non-receipt of the April issue must be received by us during the month of April. After that, a charge of 15 cents a copy will be made.

Early History of Castorland.

(Now Carthage, Jefferson County, New York).

Read Before the Chicago Coin Club by Theo. E. Leon.

The office of Land Commissioners was created in 1786 and they were clothed with discretionary powers in selling the unappropriated lands of the State of New York. On the 22nd of June, 1791, Alexander Macomb of the city of New York, acting as the agent of a company said to consist of himself, Daniel McCormick and William Constable, all of New York, applied for the purchase of a tract of land since known as Macomb's Purchase. The whole of Macomb's contract was estimated to contain after deducting 5 per cent, 3,670,715 acres. The proposed price was 8 pence per acre. Soon after perfecting his title to a portion of the tract, Macomb employed William Constanble (who is said to have been with Daniel McCormick, the principal proprietor,) as his agent to sell lands in Europe; and on the 6th of June, 1792, he released, and October 3rd, 1792, conveyed to him tracts 4, 5 and 6, containing 551,600 acres, for 50,000 pounds.

The first direct measure taken for the actual settlement of the section of New York State embraced in Jefferson County was in 1792. On the 31st of August, William Constable, then in Europe, executed a deed to Peter Chassanis of Paris for 630,000 acres south of Great Lot No. 4, which now constitutes a part of Jefferson and Lewis Counties. Chassanis acted as "the agent for the associated purchasers of land in Montgomery County" and the lands were to be by him held in trust for the use of the said William Constable and disposed of by sections of 100 acres each at the rate of 8 livres Tournois (equal to $1.50) per acre; in which said conveyance it is declared that the said Chassanis should account for the proceeds of the sales to Constable, according to the terms of the agreement between them, excepting one-tenth thereof. A deed for 625.000 acres having been made from Constable to Chassanis and delivered as an escrow to Rene Lambot, to take effect on the payment of 52,000 pounds, it was agreed that the price for this land should be one shilling per acre. Various other stipulations and agreements were made not mentioned here. This company contemplated certain plans whose execution the stormy period of the French Revolution very probably prevented, as the agreement of Constable and Chassanis of August 30th, 1792, was canceled and the tract reconveyed March 25th, 1793, in consequence of the amount falling short upon survey, far beyond the expectations of all parties. On the 12th of April, 1793, Constable conveyed 210,000 acres, by deed, for 25,000 pounds to Chassanis, since known as the Chassanis tract, Castorland, or the French Company land.

On the 11th of April, 1797, Chassanis appointed Rodolph Tellier, "member of the sovereign council of Berne," to direct and administer the properties and affairs concerning Castorland.

At a very early period, a settlement was begun by Tellier and others near the High Falls, east of Black River, and several families were settled. Several extensive sales were made to Frenchmen of the better class, who had held property and titles in France before the Revolution. Among these was Henry Boutin, who purchased about 1,000 acres of Rodolph Tellier, agent of the French Company, on the east side of Black River, and in or about 1798 made an extensive clearing on the site of Carthage village, the immediate locality then and for several years afterward being known as the "Long Falls" in allusion to the succession of rapids or falls in the river. The natural water power thus afforded, attracted Boutin to the place. He and his company of men erected a few buildings for dwelling purposes and soon thereafter Boutin set out to return to France that he might settle his business affairs, having determined to make Long Falls his permanent place of abode; but by an accident the worthy pioneer was drowned (probably in the Black River). His company of workmen soon abandoned the improvement and the lands passed to Vincent LeRay by purchase from James LeRay as administrator of the Boutin estate.

Soon after the advent of Boutin, Jean Batiste Bossout came to the place. Bossout is generally known as Battise. He was a native of Troyes in France; came to America with Steuben. Like Boutin, he was induced to come to Castorland through the agency of the French Company. After the improvement had been abandoned by the employees of Boutin, Bossout alone remained. All recollections of Jean Bossout denote that he was a worthy resident and enterprising pioneer. The occasional travelers of this region sought to cross Black River, hence our pioneer constructed a rude yet sufficient ferry, charging for its use a moderate toll and also built on the east bank of the river a small public house. It has been said that he opened the first store on the village site, but this has not been proved.

To these two worthy French pioneers is due the first improvements of the lands purchased of the French Company Land or Castorland.

Springfield Coin Club.

The seventy-second meeting of the Springfield Coin Club was held in the directors' room of the Chamber of Commerce February 12th, with President Fuller in the chair. Present: Messrs. Emery, Stone, Oliver, Pond, Curtis, Prevost, Morse and Fuller.

In the absence of the secretary, Mr. Stone was appointed pro tempore. The reading of the minutes of the January meeting was omitted.

The Publicity Committee was instructed to report some plan for giving more publicity to the time and place of our meetings.

Mr. Stone gave a lengthy talk on Napoleon and his family, illustrating the same by coins and autograph letters and documents from his collection. A unanimous vote of thanks was passed for the same.

Adjourned to meet March 12th. WM. C. STONE, Acting Secretary.

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society.

The forty-fourth meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society was held February 18th at the office of the secretary, Suite 329-335 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, Cal.

The meeting was called to order by the acting president, Mr. O. G. Beardslee.

Members present: Messers. Hill, Hitchcock, Haagensen, Brandon, Twitchell, Mohr, Todd, Turrill, Gurley, Landecker Reimers, Gill, Zerbe and Steinman.

Guest present: Mr. Hugo Goldsmith.

The secretary read communications to the Governor of California, Mr. Rud. Kohler and Charles B. Turrill.

Upon motion of Mr. Gurley, seconded by Mr. Gill, it was carried that the members of the society should each contribute from their duplicates some suitable specimen to form a nucleus for a cabinet.

Upon motion of Mr. Gurley, seconded by Mr. Turrill, it was unanimously carried that the report of Mr. Zerbe, chairman of the Committee on Medals, be placed on file to be acted upon at a future date left to the discretion of the chair; it was also moved and carried that the Committee on Medals be kept in existence until further notice.

Mr. Steinman presented the application of Mr. Rud. Kohler of New York for nonresident member. Mr. Kohler was unanimously elected.

Mr. Zerbe presented the application of Mr. Hugo Goldsmith for active member in the society. Mr. Goldsmith was unanimously elected.

Messers. John Gill, A. S. Twitchell, B. Brandon, H. L. Hill, a majority of the Board of Governors, acting upon the motion made at the last meeting, selected unanimously Mr. Farran Zerbe to fill the unexpired term for president.

Washington and Lincoln were subjects governing the exhibits and discussions. The principal address was delivered by Charles B. Turrill, historian of the Lincoln Grammar School Association, and included interesting references to the observance of Lincoln's death in San Francisco, and the erection here of the first statue to Lincoln. Washington's personal attention to the operation of our country's first mint and that our first silver coins were produced in 1792 from private silver plate supplied by Washington were topics presented by other members. Many interesting specimens of coins, medals and paper money relating to Washington and Lincoln and a personally written check of each were found in the exhibits.

The meeting then adjourned until March 25th.

I. LELAND STEINMAN, Secretary.

Chicago Coin Club.

The second monthly meeting of the Chicago Coin Club was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Wednesday, March 5. The following were present: Miss Naerup, Messers. Leon, Lawless, Brown, Boyer, Hinckley, Carey, Josephson, Rachtus, Davis and Dr. Luttenberger.

The meeting was called to order by the president. Harry Williams, Judson Brenner, George H. Blake, Fred Michael, B. Max Mehl, Alexander Rachtus and S. Archie Hamilton were elected to membership.

Lots were drawn for membership numbers, thirty-three numbers being drawn.

Mr. Boyer was given a vote of thanks for printing membership blanks and announcement cards.

The secretary then announced that a friend of the club had offered a gold proof set of 1908 as a Reward of Merit Prize for members of the club, the rating of members to be based on attendance, original contributions, exhibits and parliamentary record. The club voted to accept the offer.

President Hinckley presented the club with an Illinois Centennial Half Dollar, which will grace our cabinet.

The exhibits were as follows:

By Mr. Lewis, two types of $50 California slugs, a $5 Mormon Deseret piece, two types of uncirculated 1793 cents, and a Higley copper.

By Mr. Wilson, a collection of English copper coins ranging from a two-penny cartwheel to one-eighth of a farthing, and a large World's Fair Medal.

By Mr. Josephson, a 5-centime piece issued by the Villa de Besancon, France; a two-heller iron piece, and 5, 10 and 25-centime pieces of the last French issue.

R. E. DAVIS, Secretary.

Chicago Coin Club.

The regular monthly meeting of the Chicago Coin Club was held at the Hotel Sherman, Friday, February 14, the following members being present: Messers. Bauman, Boyer, Brown, Davis, De Cou, Carey, Josephson, Hinckley, Kelly, Lawless, Leon, Ripstra and Wilson, and Miss Naerup and Mrs. Ripstra.

The meeting was called to order by the president. The new by-laws were read and discussed and finally passed. The officers elected for the old society were re-elected. The president made the following appointments: Librarian and curator, Miss Naerup; Membership Committee, Messers. Boyer, Kelly and Ripstra; Entertainment Committee, Messers. Leon, Carey and Lawless. By a vote of the club, Mr. Ripstra was authorized to design a membership emblem.

A very interesting paper on "The Early History of Castorland," prepared by Mr. Leon, was read by the secretary. Mr. Leon exhibited a Castorland token in gold at the last meeting, which is believed to be unique in this metal.

The exhibits were as follows:

By Mr. Boyer, Half stater of Cyzicus of Mysia, in Electrum; a Kellog & Co. $20 gold piece; a $50 slug, and a gold brick from the New York Assay Office, containing 11.85 ounces of gold 999.7 fine.

By Mr. Leon, Two types of Quadruple Crowns of Brunswick, dated 1655 and 1656, and ten uncirculated large cents.

By Mr. Brown, A very fine exhibit of Anglo-Saxon pennies of the Kings of Wessex. Among them were coins of Aethelwulf, Aethelbearht, Aelfred, Eadweard, Aethelstan, Eadmund, Eadred and Eadwig.

By Mr. Lawless, Eight proof Two Cent pieces, Gold Dollars of 1854 and 1855, and McKinley and Panama-Pacific Gold Dollars, and a Corinthian stater.

By Mr. Kelley, a collection of twelve varieties of dollar bills, all bearing portraits of Washington, and one and two dollar banknotes from Belfast, Me.

By Mr. Hinckley, a set showing all types of fractional currency, a 50-cent note issued by Potter Palmer, a three-cent note of the Westchester County

Bank, printed on cloth, and three and five-cent notes from the same bank on paper.

By Mr. Josephson, five and ten-cent notes of the Western Supply Company of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and a twenty-five-cent note of Mac Queen and Young of Fort Keough, Mont.

By Mr. Wilson, a large medal of the Dublin International Exhibition of 1865.

By Mr. Davs, Lincoln medals by Zearing and Ripstra.

The meeting was then adjourned. R. E. DAVIS, Secretary.

The New York Numismatic Club.

The regular monthly meeting of the club, held Friday evening, March 14th, at the New Grand Hotel, President A. R. Frey, presiding. The following members present: Messers. Belden, Beesely, Blake, Boyd, Butler, Connor, Elder, Frey, Kohler, Proskey, Swanson, Smith, Valentine, Wyman and Wormser. Guest present: Mr. Gorham of Englewood, N. J.

Executive Committee reported as follows:

Mr. Elliott Smith, the chairman, called attention to the fact that ocean and river steam navigation had made remarkeble progress in this country from the time of Robert Fulton's experiment with the "Claremont" in 1807 to the year 1819, at which time the first ocean steamship crossed the Atlantic.

The latter year was memorable for the following attempts in navigation:

April 10—The steamship Savannah, the first steam craft to cross the Atlantic ocean, leaves the City of New York for Savannah, Ga., on the first leg of her historic voyage. She was of 380 tons burden.

May 26—The transatlantic steamship Savannah leaves the city of Savannah bound for Liverpool, England.

May 28—The steamboat Independence, pioneer steam craft on the Missouri River, goes up that stream as far as Franklin.

June 2—The steamboat Harriet, pioneer steam craft on the Mississippi River, arrives at St. Lous from New Orleans, after a trip of 27 days.

June 20—The American steamship Savannah arrived at Liverpool, England.

September 22—The first steamship on Lake Erie begins its trip.

Mr. Smith stated that as our April meeting occurred on the 11th of the month, exactly one hundred years after the departure of the Savannah from New York, the event be commemorated by an exhibition of medals, tokens, etc., illustrating steamships and steamboats, transportation tokens and the four most interesting coins or tokens in your collection.

Mr. Smith informed the club that the Park Avenue Hotel had dispensed with the colored waiters and that he thought it would be a much better meeting place for the club. Messers, Wormser, Valentine and Wyman spoke in favor of continuing at the New Grand Hotel, and after a general discussion it was regularly moved, seconded and carried that we continue to hold our meetings at the Grand.

Under the head of new business, Mr. Smith brought up the question of placing all the ex-presidents of the Executive Committee as ex officio members, without vote. After general discussion the matter was laid on the table.

Mr. Connor, one of our members, from Metuchen, N. J., made his first

appearance in four years, and stated that he regretted his inability to come to every meeting, owing to the fact that he is connected with a bank and for the past four years has had to work nights to keep up with the increased work. He stated that he would be pleased to invite the club to his home in Metuchen some time in the near future.

Mr. Gorham, guest of Dr. Valentine, stated that he had heard so much about the Pessimists' Club from Dr. Valentine that he just had to come and look us over, and that he only discovered this evening that it was Numismatic Club.

The next order of business—Exhibits of Peace Treaty Medals.

Mr. D. Proskey's exhibit:

Nero—Large bronze with the closed temple of Janus, which occurred only during universal peace.

George II—1757, first peace medal made in America, silver, orig.

George III—Large peace medal, given to American Indians, silver.

President James Madison—Large peace medal for Indians, silver.

Medal struck by the Holland Society commemorating Holland's treaty with the United States, 1783, designs copied from the original "Fantissimo Foedere Junctae" medal.

Athenian Olympian Games, 1896, bronze.

Riga, Livonia Music Festival, 1836, bronze.

London Athletic Club Medal, presented to "Mrs. Wm. Waddell, 1877," bronze.

Essex Co. Club, Manchester, Mass.; Goat Medal in silver.

Monticello Whiskey card and Anna Eva Fay's Mascot card, both copper.

Scovill Mfg. Co. Centennial Medal 1902, bronze, with recipient's name struck in with tablet die. F. C. C. BOYD, Secretary.

Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

The regular monthly meeting of the West Pennsylvania Numismatic Society was held on Tuesday evening, February 4, 1919, at the Carnegie Institute of Technology. Members present: Dr. Wilharm, Messrs. Kraft, Boyle, Gibbs, Gaede and Gies. The secretary read an invitation from the Philatelic Society of Pittsburgh to meet with them on Tuesday evening, February 18, at the Hotel Henry. Invitation accepted and the members look forward to a pleasant evening with our brother collectors. Catalogue of Mr. Mehl's sale of the 18th was received.

Dr. Wilharm presented a reproduction of the Directory of Pittsburgh, 1815.

Exhibits—Dr. Wlharm, bronze medal of the Fiftieth Anniversary of Heeren Brothers, Pittsburgh. U. S. Cents, 1827-1828-1843, obverse of 42, reverse 44. $5.00 Gold Piece, C. Bechtler, Rutherford County, 200 carats, 150 C. North Carolina gold.

Mr. Gibbs, 15 Silver coins, including Silver Bean money (Mame Gin of the Tempo and Bunsei periods, Japan. Five counterstamped coins of silver of dollar

size used in the Orient; rare pattern trade dollar, Japan, and 40 foreign copper coins selected for their rarity.

Mr. Gies, 1795 U. S. Half Dollar, counterstamped with head of King George III of England, very rare.

Mr. Gaede, 1794 Half Dollar, 1812 Half Dollar.

Mention was made of the loss of one of our members, Mr. G. F. Marlier, part of whose collection was stolen a short time ago. Everyone was very sorry to hear of his loss.

A. C. GIES, Secretary.

MARCH 4, 1919.

The regular monthly meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society of Pittsburgh was held on Tuesday evening, March 4, in the Carnegie Institute of Technology. Members present: Dr. Wilharm, Boyle, Kraft, Gaede, Gibbs. After regular business meeting exhibits were made as follows:

Mr. Boyle, 1907 $10.00 U. S. Gold, regular issue; same, wire edge variety, with periods. $5.00 Gold 1804; $10.00 1801; 2½ Gold 1807; Foreign Gold, Prussia 1807, 20 Marks; Transvaal, Kruger, Pound; Philippines, One Peso Gold 1861, Also U. S. Gold $3.00 1854, 1855, 1883.

Mr. Kraft, U. S. Cents 1796, double struck date, 1796, 1817, 1838, 1846, 1857 and Half Cent of 1809.

Dr. Wilharm, uncirculated Crown of Basel, Switzerland, 1756; Rosa America Half Cent 1722; Massachusetts Penny 1787; Vermont Penny 1786; U. S Half Cents 1794 (beautiful gem), 1804.

Mr. Gaede, U. S. Half Dollar 1836. Various Foreign copper coins.

Mr. Gibbs, Odd and curious coins, including Silver Ingot of Japan weighing 12 ounces, entirely covered with minute inscriptions. Four vareties Chinese Knife Money, Aztec Bronze coins, Kimmeridge Coal Money, forty varieties Spanish Cob money, including counterstamped 8 Real Cobs for Costa Rico, Honduras, Martinique and Guadaloupe.

H. D. GIBBS. Acting Secretary.

Canada to Have a New One-Cent Piece.

Sir Thomas White, the Canadian Minister of Finance, Introduced Resolution to This Effect in the House of Parliament in Ottawa.

Sir Thomas White introduced the resolution, which was passed unanimously, and which has for its purpose to provide for the issue of a new one-cent piece smaller than the present coin.

He said the weight of the present coin was 87 1-2 grains, and the new coin would be 50 grains. The present coin weighs 80 to the pound, while the new coin will weigh 140 to the pound. It will approximate the American bronze cent, which weighs 48 grains. It will be a little larger than the 10-cent silver piece and figured so that it will be easily distinguished by the touch. The old one-cent pieces will continue in force, and the new one will be issued by proclamation.

Sir Thomas explained that it was not intended to withdraw the present one-cent piece from circulation, but as they become smooth and worn they would be redeemed. This would take a long time.

Mr. Jacobs suggested that the new coins should be more distinctly Canadian than those at present. Sir Thomas then introduced a bill based on the resolution.

Seventh Annual Dinner of the Rochester Numismatic Association.

The seventh annual dinner of our association was held at Hotel Rochester January 21st, 1919.

The members, their wives and sweethearts and invited guests assembling at seven o'clock and repairing to the Ad Club rooms to the strains of the orchestra at seven-thirty, where the covers were laid for forty-five.

The tables were decorated with pink carnations and ferns.

Dr. Jeremiah Zimmerman of Syracuse University, whose genial personality and genuine interest in our hobby is always an inspiration, was again present, and indeed, our dinners would not be a complete success without him.

We considered ourselves especially favored by the presence with us as our guests: Mr. Carl Wurtzbach of Lee, Mass., president of the American Numismatic Association. There is no man whom the Numismatic fraternity so love to honor as he. Mr. Henry Chapman of Philadelphia, Pa., whose genial presence always adds a pleasure to our dinners, and he is always sure of a hearty welcome: Mr. Howard Newcomb of Detroit, who we really think has a most kindly feeling in his heart for the R. N. A., which we feel very sure does not surpass our regards for him.

All did full justice to a thoroughly good dinner, through which were interspersed good music and the singing of popular and patriotic songs.

After the coffee and cigars, our president turned the assemblage over to the tender mercies of the toastmaster, Dr. George French, who made the most of his opportunity to jolly some and blackguard others as the spirit moved him.

The toastmaster called on Mr. George Gillette, who in well-chosen words presented Mr. Milton H. Roblee, manager of Hotel Rochester, a loving ring, an antique intaglio beautifully set.

Mr. Roblee responded in his usual hearty way, and while disclaiming his ability as an orator, his remarks were sincere and to the point.

Our association is greatly indebted to Mr. Roblee for his uniform courtesy and constant favors, and the ring but slightly expressed our appreciation.

Dr. Zimmerman gave us a most interesting and instructive talk on "My Impressions of Worldwide Travel." He spoke of archaeological objects which he had seen in eight years of travel about the world, and described in a very vivid way objects of ancient history, such as the tombs of Egypt, the catacombs of Rome, and of ancient and modern customs of the Chinese, as well as in India and South America.

The toastmaster then introduced Mr. Carl Wurtzbach, who insisted that he could make a better speech had he known of the toastmaster's intentions. However that may be, he has the happy faculty of saying the right thing at the right time, and fully maintained his reputation.

One of the new medals of Mr. Yawger, our past president, was presented him in behalf of the association by Dr. French.

Mr. George Bauer as chairman of the Memorial Medal Committee explained in detail and exhibited to those presented several designs for the medal, most of them by our Mechanices Institute students. The selection of a definite design will be made shortly.

Letters of regret were read from Mr. Moritz Wormser, Mr. J. M. Henderson, Mr. J. M. Oliver and several others who were unable to attend.

Mr. J. A. Koeb explained the process of medal making, carrying us in an interesting way from the crude metal to the finished production.

After letting most of the past presidents have their innings, the toastmaster declared that as physician, he always recommended plenty of sleep, and inasmuch as it was then one o'clock, he would "call the game."

So closed one of the most enjoyable and pleasant dinners of our history..

FRED B. KING, Secretary.

THE QUESTION BOX

Silver Coins of the German States, Etc.

A Ballard (Wash.) subscriber asks: "Are there any thalers or double thalers issued in Baden, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Nassau-Oldenburg?"

BADEN—In 1876, two and five marks issued under Frederick. Two mark in 1906 under Frederick and Louise (50th anniversary piece). Fred. II issued a three-mark piece.

MECKLENBURG-SCHWERIN—One thalers in 1864-1867-1870. Two-mark pieces in 1901. In gold—Ten thalers in 1831 under Frederic Frantz 1, and in 1839 under Paul Frederic.

MECKLENBURG-STRELITZ-Cannot find any.

NASSAU—One thalers issued in 1859-'60-'63 and 1864. Two thalers in 1844-1854-1860. Older issues are: One thaler 1813 under Frederic, and same value 1817 under Wilhelm, and 1818-1825.

OLDENBURG—One thalers under Paul Frederic August in 1846, and under Nicolaus Fred. Peter in 1858-1860-1866. Two marks under Fred. Aug. in 1900.

BELGIUM—Under Albert. ITALY under Victor Em. III. No gold coins of five francs to our knowledge, nor five drachme of Greece after George I.

MONACO—No modern silver. Honorius II (1605-1662 issued a thaler in 1653.

ORANGE FREE STATE—No free coins issued.

ZANZIBAR—Dollars with Arabic inscriptions on both sides.

N. B.—This is not a complete list of the issues of the various states. To give such would require too much space.

The Cents and Dollars of 1804.

An Ohio subscriber asks, "How many dollars and cents were struck off in 1804?"

We have in former issues advised our readers to apply to the Director of the Mint, Washington, D .C., for the Annual Report issued by him. There is no charge for this—it is sent gratis. The Mint report gives the number of dollars coined in 1804 as 19,570. Cents were coined in the same year to the value of $7.568.38.

While the reports give these numbers as coined during 1804, it does not state that they all bore that date—dies of former years were used also. There is no proof that any dollar was coined during 1804 from a die bearing that date. We hope to be able during this year to publish a paper on the 1804 dollar, and must ask you and others who have written to us on this question to wait until we can arrange for its publication.

Get the "Types" First.

If "war stamps" and "bonds," or "war chest,"
Leave you money for a "fad,"
You might send on a slight bequest,
Which would make the Red Cross glad;
But when war demands are waning
And you've helped the best you could,
Start a numismatic training,
Which will be all to the good.

Before starting a collection
Of the money of this earth,
Spend some time in sage reflection,
E'er you plunge for all you're worth;
Think with care before you venture,
Decide on what line to take;
On the field of coins you'll enter.
And don't make your "fad" a "fake."

Take one instance, for example,
The large cents of U. S. A.,
If you get them, full and ample,
Believe me, you'll have to pay;
To get every date, in sequence,
Is some "stunt," as you will find;
You may "kick" some at the frequence
Of "high cost," and change your mind.

There's one line that is a winner,
Get it, you'll make no mistake;
Just A. T. for a beginner,
Small chance here to get a "fake";
Buy the "types" of any series,
At first, these are all you need;
Something fine, which never wearies,
But will be a joy indeed.

This is true of ALL the money
Of our grand old U. S. A.;
With "types," or designs, 'tis funny
If you don't have some display;
Never mind about the "rarest,"
You can fill "gaps" later on;
And you'll agree 'tis the fairest
To your purse, when you've begun.

The work of all the engravers,
Will be there, to your delight;
You can tell the money-savers
You've got these and got them right;
Thus when war demands are over,
Then while peace with plenty joins,
You can tell folks "a la Hoover,"
How the types saved on your coins.

—F. E. DUTCHER.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Monthly Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

Subscription Price in United States, 50 cents a year, Canada and Foreign $1.00

Vol. X. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, MAY, 1919 No. 5

With The Editor

While we fully understand that the two thousand collectors who subscribe and pay for this Magazine, year in and year out, for the past ten years, do so only on the merits of the publication, but it does make us feel just a wee bit proud to know that the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY is looked forward to and enjoyed by so many of its subscribers, as is evidenced by the numerous letters we have been receiving since our announcement in the last issue of the intentions we entertained for a short time to discontinue the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY for the time being.

We re-print excerpts from just a few of the letters received from nearly every section of the country:

"I am glad you reconsidered your intention to discontinue the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY for any length or period whatsoever. I have only been a subscriber for a little over a year, but it has already a place with me that I would not know how to fill without it." Yours very truly,

(Signed): ARTHUR E. HEVNER, Renovo, Pa.

—o—

"I received the latest copy of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY, and was surprised as well as pleased, to hear that you had decided to continue its publication. When you returned my money, and announced that the MONTHLY would be discontinued, I felt like a person who had lost an old friend. I would have entered my protest with the protests of others, but considered that you were conducting your own business, and therefore knew what you were doing.

Enclosd you will find $1.00 to pay for the continuance of my subscription.

Assuring you that you have caused me a great deal of happiness, by your change of intentions, and wishing you the best of health and prosperity, I am,

Sincerely yours,

(Signed): WM. A. BODENHOERFER, Muskegon, Mich.

—o—

"Dear Mr. Mehl: By all means continue the publication of the MONTHLY. I can readily understand the difficulties you have faced during the past months, as all purchasers of paper and printing have had ample excuse to pour ashes over their heads during the War. Had I thought that there was any doubt in your mind as to the appreciation accorded your publication, I would have written you long ago. There isn't an issue but which contains something to the moment and of value to anyone handling coins." Yours very truly,

(Signed): J. H. TATSCH, Spokane, Wash.

The Lesher or Referendum Pieces.

By FARRAN ZERBE

(In the American Journal of Numismatics).

Octagonal silver pieces dated 1900 and 1901 made by Joseph Lesher of Victor, Colorado, for commercial use, and classed as coins by the maker, have been given the name of LESHERS. As a late private issue of silver for exchange purposes, not depending upon necessity or demand; the idea and product of an advocate of free coinage of silver; issued in defiance of government statute; and for a time performing in a limited way the service of money in central Colorado, these coins contribute an extraordinary and interesting addition to American numismatics.

The entire issues is believed not to have exceeded three thousand pieces. Different types, sizes and imprints compose twelve varieties, to which may be added minor varieties due to slight variations in detail. Although the issue is recent, all are now scarce and in demand. No modern series of which I know, has developed more persistent inquiry for facts and specimens by the few collectors interested in securing information and acquiring new varieties. The neighborhood of their production and the localities where they were issued have been repeatedly canvassed in the past ten years, but comparatively few specimens in proportion to reasonable expectations have been obtained or located. The record of those in specialized collections and appearing in numismatic sale catalogues for the last decade, aggregate less than one hundred; and the only quantity known to exist is under two hundred pieces accumulated up to 1905 and (quietly) held since then. Thus we have evidence of the rapidity with which an issue, even when of good proportions, may disappear, and it is the more notable, because in this instance, loss results if the pieces are converted into bullion.

Efforts to obtain information for a numismatic record of LESHERS has not been left to the present. It has been in process to a greater or less degree for some time, but it is only by bringing together bits of information acquired by several individual collectors that a connected story is provoded. Letters of inquiry to Mr. Lesher received no answer. When he was interviewed personally he claimed to have preserved no records, and in many instances his memory serves only for approximate answers to direct questions. However there is little numismatically essential to be added to the facts which have been brought together and confirmd by the present writer.

The first published numismatic notice in regard to this series that has come to my attention was by Lyman H. Low in cataloguing two specimens for the H. G. Brown collection sale in 1904. Mr. Low referred to them thus: "Probably but little thought of to-day, but I judge a few years hence all will be among the rarities sought for." It seems apropos to record that Mr. Low here scored as prophet, for while the series is still little known and yet to be edited, the very specimens Mr. Low mentioned would be worth to-day five or six times the price they brought in 1904.

A brief reference was made to "referendum souvenir trading pieces" in my notes to The Numismatist, May, 1905. The only extended numismatic reference to the series is contained in the article by E. H. Adams published in The Numismatist, August 1911. Mr. Adams, who bases his article on material supplied by Judson Brenner, writes in introduction: "It is curious that so little infor-

mation can be obtained in regard to a coinage that took place in the United States not more than eleven years ago, yet nevertheless the operations of Joseph Lesher, who issued the odd octagonal silver pieces bearing his name at Victor, Colorado, in 1900, are shrouded in almost complete obscurity." He describes five varieties, all there were then known to him.

I and others who were interested in an effort to secure more detailed knowledge, addressed letters of inquiry to Mr. Lesher and some of those who were associated with him. No replies being received we concluded that all were either dead or untraceable. In 1914, however, I chanced to meet Charles E. Briggs, an active collector of Lisbon, Iowa, who was particularly interested in LESHERS. He told me of a recent call on Mr. Lesher at his home in Victor and of the result of his search for specimens and information.

Victor, the home of the LESHERS, is in the heart of the Cripple Creek gold mining section of Colorado, a few hours ride from Colorado Springs. On my next visit to that section in 1914, I spent a few pleasant hours with Joseph Lesher and his wife. I found him an affable, well-preserved old gentleman, who told me he was born in the vicinity of Toledo, Ohio, and was about eighty years old; that he came to Colorado in its pioneer days, and after a residence of some years he returned to Ohio and engaged in the livery business in Toledo for over ten years; then after a few years of farming in the vicinity, he returned to Victor about twenty-eight years previous to my visit. He has since resided there and engaged during his active years in mining and real estate.

He referred with surprise and satisfaction to the visits he had had from collectors, and to the many mail inquiries regarding his "referendums." He had not yet expected this interest from numismatists and he showed delight when I told him I was seeking information from which to make an accurate and permanent record. He looks back upon the producton of his "referendums" not as anything novel, but simply as one might consider any ordinary article developed by bringing into material form an idea for which there seemed a profitable market. He had no thought of any future particular interest or he would have kept records and been better prepared to give information.

All the pieces are stamped REFERENDUM, and Mr. Lesher speaks of them by that name, and calls them pieces of silver of convenient size and value, shaped to be distinguished from government coins, showing their quality and price, guaranteed to be redeemed by the issuer, and referred to the people for use or rejection as a medium of exchange. Colorado's pronounced en-endorsement of the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, which Mr. Lehser advocated in the national campaigns of 1896 and 1900, was the seed from which grew his idea for a silver coin issue as a private enterprise. He believed the people of Colorado and other parts of the country wanted and would use more silver dollars if they were supplied.

The first issues, dated 1900, contain one ounce of "coin silver" and are of the novel denomination of $1.25. It is said the plan was to have merchants pay them out at $1.00 and receive them back at $1.25 in exchange for merchandise. However, I found no evidence or practice confirming this, and the plan appears on its face as impractical. While Mr. Lesher does not confirm it, it is reasonable to believe that there may have been some partcular purpose for making the value $1.25 other than to have them of one ounce composition and valued in proportion to relative cost and profit.

Dies for the first variety were made by Frank Hurd of Denver; all the other dies were made by Herman Otto. I had a pleasant call with Mr. Otto at his Denver studio. He is a native of Germany, and an artist with brush and chisel as well as a designer and die cutter. During his residence in England years ago he worked on dies for the British government. He said the Lesher dies were made under instructions as to detail, and that he had little opportunity for using his judgment for best effects. He recalled some dies breaking and his making new ones to replace them. He had no record of the number of dies made but believed those I described included all the varieties.

The most interested collectors of Leshers are E. B. Morgan, Esq., president of the Colorado State Historical Society; C. W. Cowell, and H. O. Mann, all of Denver; Judson Brenner, Youngstown, Ohio; C. E. Brggs, Lisbon, Iowa, and the writer. The quantity accumulator is Jean Maunovry, now of Rochester, New York, who was for some years a resident of Denver and interested in mining claim in the Cripple Creek district. Mr. Maunovry says he purchased from one person a lot of about one hundred in 1905, and several at different times from banks, curio shops and individuals. The series being of local interest, the Denver collectors have been active in their quest for varieties; Mr. Brenner took up the trail soon after the pieces were issued; and Mr. Briggs has been particularly active in seeking specimens. If they were to be had

No. 2.

Mr. Briggs should now have a good supply, for in addition to several visits to the Cripple Creek section he has advertised for Leshers in the newspapers of that vicinity, and has sent circulars offering to purchase to the addresses of mail buyers, which he received from Mr. Lesher but has secured only a few specimens.

To all of these gentlemen I wish to acknowledge indebtedness for information which they have given me, and for the use of their specimens for comparison and illustration. It is notable that a complete collection is yet to be brought together. The Brenner, Briggs and Zerbe collections, the most complete as yet, each has two varieties not possessed by either of the others, and four different collections would have to be drawn upon to bring together all known varieties. This emphasizes the rarity of some of the varieties, since for more than ten years completeness has been the aim of the six collectors mentioned.

All the pieces have provision made for numbering them. They were numbered by hand, each character on a separate punch not always uniform, thus producing numbers irregular in alignment and depths. Some have a period after the number, but it is not on all. Mr. Lesher says a regular system of number-

ing was not maintained, and the numbers cannot be accepted as a guide to the relation of one series to another or as to the number produced either in respect to varieties or total issue. All the pieces are octagonal and with plain edge. According to Mr. Lesher they are composed of silver .950 fine with copper alloy, this fineness more than making good the claim of quality "coin silver" stamped upon them. They were struck by various metal stampers in Denver.

In the following descriptions of all known varieties the absence or misuse of punctuation marks in the inscription will be noted, but in most instances no references will be made except by the illustrations to various dots, lines and scrolls used as space ornaments or dividers.

1900 ISSUES

All are 35 millimeters across center, stamped 1 oz Coin Silver with price $1.25.

1. First type, 1900. Obverse: JOS LESHERS REFERENDUM SOUVENIR. in upper hemicircle; below, in six lines, One oz of Coin | -•Silver•- | Price 1.25 | M.F.G.D VICTOR | -•COLO.•- | 1900

Reverse: A COMMODITY | WILL GIVE | IN | EXCHANGE | CURRENCY COIN | -•OR•- | MERCHANDISE | AT FACE VALUE | NO in nine lines.

One hundred struck and numbered consecutively from 1 to 100. These were widely distributed due to mail inquiries following newspaper notices, and from the number located these are about fourth in rarity. The dies were seized by the government and production stopped.

Considerable newspaper comment followed the initial production of the pieces. One item, dated Victor, November 13, 1900, reads: "Joseph Lesher, a Colorado pioneer and silver mine owner, has procured a die, laid in a supply of bullion and manufactured several silver coins, each containing one ounce of pure silver. He calls his coins 'Referendum Dollars' because they are to be referred to the people for acceptance or rejection.

"Mr. Lesher proposes to demonstrate that the 'intrisic value' theory is a delusion and a snare. His silver at the present quotation costs sixty-five cents per ounce, the expense of coining is fifteen cents, eighty cents in all, but he values the dollars at $1.25 and intends to keep them above par. Although he is confident that the silver alone is really worth $1.29 an ounce, he admits that other people may be prejudiced. Therefore he promises to pay $1.25 in United States money on demand for each 'referendum' dollar. In order to avoid any entanglements with the Government, Mr. Lesher makes his dollars eight-sided."

While this does not exactly agree with statements made in later years by Mr. Lesher, it is perhaps as nearly a correct report as could be made of an experimental plan based on visionary theory.

Not many days elapsed after the production of the first Leshers before their producer had a call from Government officers. He now tells amusedly that on his compliance with their request to see the dies "they pulled out a little sack into which they put the dies and walked away, and I never saw the dies again." The officers claimed that the pieces had the function of coin and were therefor contrary to law. Lesher considered the interference of the Government unwarranted and appealed to Senator Teller who, according to Lesher, brought the matter to the attention of the Secretary of the Treasury. The latter after consideration agreed that on condition of certain changes in the inscription there would be no further interference on the part of the Government.

The following newspaper item appeared under date of November 29, 1900: "Joseph Lesher who recently made and issued one hundred silver souvenirs, which he called 'Referendum Dollars,' says he has assurances from the United States District Attorney that his scheme is not illegal, and he has ordered a new die from which 10,000 will be struck off immediately. The silver will cost him $6,500 and the making $1,500. He will sell the coins for $12,500 and redeem them on demand for the same amount. The new coins will bear the name of a Victor grocery man, who agrees to redeem them in merchandise or money."

The pieces referred to are known as the Bumstead type. A. B. Bumstead, the name of a Victor merchant who issued and redeemd them is engraved in the die. Dies for this and the balance of the series are by Otto. They are well cut and arranged, and all have a narrow struck up flat frame, not always uniform, with a beaded border.

2. Bumstead Type—First Reverse. Obverse: An ideal mountain mining scene occupies upper half of field; in two lines at top divided by the central mountain peak PIKES—PEAK | SILVER MINE; on lower half . A COMMODITY . | ←WILL GIVE→ | . IN EXCHANGE . | MERCHANDISE | —*AT*— A. B. BUMSTEAD NO. in seven lines.

Reverse: JOS. LESHERS REFERENDUM SOUVENIR in upper five-eighths of circle near edge; balanced in center of upper half in a devise from the seal of the State of Colorado including its motto NIL SINE NUMINE (Nothing without God) which separates 1. OZ. COIN; below, . SILVER . PRICE 1.25. M'F'D. VICTOR COLO. .1900. in five lines.

These are found numbered up to 600, which was probably the number struck. But few with this reverse have been located, and the type appears to be about third in rarity. The dies are still held by Mr. Lesher, and the obverse die is chipped on the edge.

This variety is distinguished from No. 3, by scrolls on the reverse, ornamenting the field at sides of the State seal service, and a line or dash over COLO. Mr. Lesher is uncertain, but thinks that the reverse without scrolls was used first. However, the fact that I have not found any with scrolls numbered higher than 600, while all without scrolls are numbered between 600 and 1,000, and also No. 4, which has the reverse without scrolls is numbered still higher, indicates that the die with scrolls was used first as here classed.

3. Bumstead Type.—Second Reverse. Same as No. 2 excepting that there are no scrolls in the field at sides of the State seal device, or line, above COLO.

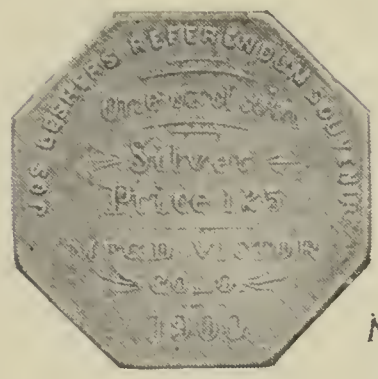
Those noted are numbered between 600 and 1000. See note following No. 2. The die, now rusted, is owned by a collector. This is the most common variety of the entire series and is classed sixth in rarity.

It is not known how many of either Bumstead varieties were struck. Mr. Lesher says Bumstead sold about 700 and was called upon to redeem only 3 pieces for cash, and all eventually disappeared from use. I have found them numbered as high as 988. It is presumed that 1,000 were struck, and while all are dated 1900 they were made and used as late as any of the series. It is surprising that so many pieces with a cash value of $1.25 each, should almost completely disappear within a few years in a small town like Victor. But two known specimens were left in the town in 1914, both framed and on exhibition and valued by their owners at $10.00 each.

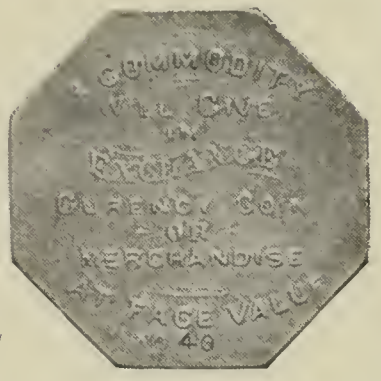
4. Bank Type. Obverse: Upper half same as No. 2; lower half, * A COMMODITY * | WILL GIVE MERCHANDISE OR CASH | : AT : ANY : BANK : | No. in four lines; a blank field, the size and position of which suggests that provision was made for special imprint in addition to the number; at bottom, in curved line, * AT BULLION VALUE *

Reverse: Same as No. 3.

The die is now owned by a collector. Mr. Lesher says but five pieces, die trials, were struck and the bank idea was abandoned. In proposing their redemption at any banks in merchandise or cash was inviting trouble as well as



No. 1.

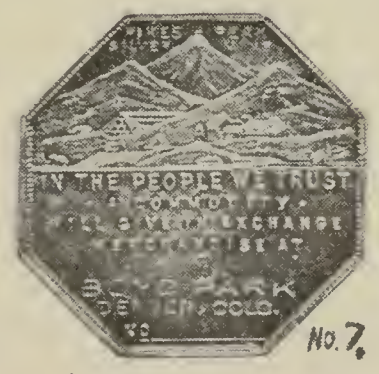


No. 3

No. 4.

No. 5

No. 6.



No. 7.

No. 8.

Government interference at a time when the scheme in general was going nicely. It has not been learned what kind of "merchandise" banks were expected to give. Of this, the rarest type of the series, three have been located: Briggs, No. 1563, Brenner, No. 1620 and Zerbe, No. 1631. These unrelated numbers, when only five were struck is unexplained and indicative of the lack of system that, I am led to think, was associated with the entire product. The 1631 is the highest number known to me in the entire Lesher series. This closses the series dated 1900 and the value of $1.25.

It is presumed there was more or less criticism and interference by Government representatives and together with the success of the Bumstead distribution suggested the obtaining of protecton against imitators, for succeeding issues. We see from the inscription on the next issue that the pieces were both patented and copyrighted, Lesher thereby considering himself licensee to make them and safe from further interference by the Government. This was a mistaken idea, for one may obtain a patent or copyright, and yet the article so protected may be prohibited if it is contrary to law.

1901 ISSUES

Weight, size and price reduced. All are 32 millimeters; weight 412½ grains (the weight of a standard dollar, price $1.00. They have a blank field for business imprint. These imprints are made by hand punches in Gothic style characters, for the most part in two lines.

5. Imprint Type. Obverse: Mining scene, etc., as on No. 2, below in four lines IN THE PEOPLE WE TRUST . | * A COMMODITY * | WILL GIVE IN EXCHANGE | MERCHANDISE AT, a blank space for imprint; at bottom, No with line for number.

Reverse: JOS : LESCHERS : REFERENDUM : SILVER : SOUVENIR : MEDAL in three-quarter circle at top, State seal device as on No. 2 divides PRICE $1.00. with U. S. | PATENT at left and No 62,695. at right; below in six lines, TRADE MARK REG. U. S. PAT. OFF. | No 36,192. APR. 9, 1901. | DESIGN PAT. APR. 16. 1901. M'F'D. VICTOR COLO .1901.

Without business imprint. They are found with and without number. Mr. Cowell has one without number. Mr. Brenner No. 1, and Mr. Briggs No. 1022; others, all numbered below 100, have appeared in sales. Classed fourth in rarity. The obverse die is owned by a collector; the reverse die has not been located and is believed to have been destroyed. It will be noted that MEDAL has been added to the name. and while the Colorado motto, Nil Sine Numine, is continued, it isnow IN THE PEOPLE WE TRUST, according to the added superscription.

Mr. Lesher had a quantity made for stock and does not remember what disposition was made for the remainder. Boyd Park, a jeweler of Denver at the time, who was Lesher's distributing agent for several months, is said to have had an interest in this remainder and it is supposed that they were reduced to bullion; however, this is not certain, but should any quantity lot of Leshers come to light later they would probably be of this variety (No. 5) or with Boyd Park imprint (No. 10.) Denver people remember seeing quantities, hundreds they say, heaped in Park's store window. It is my impression that a quantity does or did exist for some time after they were either withdrawn from public sale, or restriking was considered. In 1914 a Colorado man said he could get a quantity for me if I would pay the price. I was surprised and asked him how many he could obtain. He replied, "As many as you will want, yes, hundreds." I agreed to purchase, and at once started to try and locate the dies for this type. All the other dies known had been previously examined and I knew there could be no restrikes from them without distinguishing marks. Lesher said these dies (No. 5) had been left with Frank Hurd who was to strike the next lot in case any more were wanted. Lesher was lax in keeping in

touch with Hurd whose business was later sold out and his shop equipment dispersed. Since then Lesher had been unable to trace him. A search extending over about two weeks was rewarded by finding and obtaining the obverse die and planchet punch among discarded metal at a novelty works. The reverse die was not found. When I later called upon the man who was to supply a quantity, he said the man he expected to get them from was a "peculiar fellow" and he could not "do business" with him now. I have been after that quantity lot at different times since, but neither a specimen nor any information to lead to one has resulted, cexepting the lot held by Mr. Maunovry. This hoard may be the one my enthusiastic would-be supplier knew of but was unable to secure.

6. Same as No. 5, but stamped — J. M. SLUSHER CRIPPLE CREEK, COLO.

J. M. Slusher was a Cripple Creek grocer, now deceased, Lesher says he had less than five hundred. They are known numbered between 49 and 248, inclusive. They appear to be about the second commonest variety and are classed about fifth in rarity.

7. Same as No. 5, stamped—SAM COHEN | VICTOR, COLO.

Mr. Lesher says Cohen was a Victor jeweler and did not have many—"a few small lots at different times." Only three located, Briggs, No. 429 (double imprint, first imprint upside down), Brenner, No. 406, and Mann, No. 428. Considered second rarest imprint.

8. Same as No. 5, stamped—D. W. KLEIN & CO. | PUEBLO, COLO.

During our conversation in 1914, Mr. Klein told me his firm was engaged in the retail liquor business and that he was an old friend of Mr. Lesher and experimented with the coins on that account. He had three hundred, paid Lesher 85 cents apiece for them, used them in change and trade at $1.00, and only one ever came back for cash redemption. He had not kept a specimen, and all had disappeared, where or how he did not know. During a visit to Pueblo in 1905 I located but one, No. 1071, at a pawnshop, and which I obtained. On a later visit an industrious search brought me another, No. 1051, worn smooth except for imprint. These are the only two of record.

9. Same as No. 5, stamped—GEO. MULLEN VICTOR, COLO.

Mr. Lesher says Mullen was a shoemaker and only 100 pieces were stamped for him. Considered one of the rarest; but three specimens located, Mr. Morgan's without number, Mr. Mann's, No. 1511, and Zerbe's, No. 1504.

10. Same as No. 5, stamped—BOYD PARK | DENVER, COLO.

This imprint differs from the preceding in that it is in smaller characters. Park was a Denver jeweler and distributing agent for Lesher, who says Park sold between 500 and 1000; if so, a good portion of them were probably without imprint for I have found nothing to indicate that more than 200 were stamped. Excepting an unnumbered specimen in the Zerbe collection, all known are numbered between 500 and 700.

11. Same as No. 5 stamped—W. L. ALEXANDER | JEWELER | SALIDA, COLO.
The second A in Salida is an inverted V.

This is undoubtedly the rarest imprint and was unknown to collectors until 1918. The only specimen located is owned by Mr. Cowell and bears the number 8. The imprint differs from others in that it is in three lines, very thin characters and lightly struck. It was Mr. Cowell's impression that the business card

was engraved, but recent information from Mr. Alexander, who is still in business in Salida is that he "obtained from Joseph Lesher, Victor, Colo., fifty of the Referendum Dollars in March, 1902, paying forty dollars for them; all of them were received stamped to my order as the one described, and numbered from 1 to 50. Have none on hand and do not know where they are located."

12. Same as No. 5, engraved—GOODSPEEDS & CO. 26 PIKES PEAK AVE.

This imprint is engraved, not stamped as are all the preceding, on account of its being engraved its admittance to the series as a variety is based on the fact that the issue was contemporaneous with the others of the same type. Goodspeed & Co., were jewelers in Colorado Springs and experimented with Leshers by engraving a few, expecting later to have some stamped. None, however, are known to have been stamped. But one specimen is on record, No. 1015 in the Briggs' collection.

This closes the record of all varieties known. Others said to have purchased Leshers for trade use were C. W. Thomas, jeweler, Florence, Colo., and two clothiers, Lesher says probably at Canon City and Grand Junction, Colo. All these three are said to have been supplied in blank and it is not known if any were imprinted by them. Efforts to locate Thomas or to identify the clothiers were unsuccessful.

Coins with imprint space blank were supplied to any one requesting them. Imprint stamps were at the merchant's expense. None of the stamps have been located, and Lesher did not know what became of them. Considering how other material was found it is probable that if they exist they have been rusted beyond further use. With increasing interest in the series, which is to be expected from its deserved place in American numismatics, since blanks exist, caution should be exercised against engraved or otherwise forged imprints.

Mr. Lesher says about 3500, including all types, were struck. Allowing for some believed to have been melted, the distribution was probably about 3000 pieces. He says he was never asked to redeem any. The few pieces he wanted to keep have either been sold at fancy prices in recent years, or as he says, "got away when I wasn't looking."

An advertising card which was mailed out as late as 1903, reads:

THE FAMOUS VICTOR
REFERENDUM SILVER DOLLARS
are now used by the following named persons as a medium of exchange in their business. As a local medium of exchange they are a success.

SAM COHN, exclusive agent,		Victor, Colo.
J. W. SLUSHER	"	Cripple Creek.
BOYD PARK	"	Denver, Colo.
C. W. THOMAS	"	Florence, Colo.
D. W. KLEIN	"	Pueblo, Colo.

(Reverse)

It is well known that these coins have a history. I am now threatened next time Congress meets that they will try to enact a law by which they will attempt to stop me making them. I am fair and impartial, and am willing to submit the question to the Courts, Public Opinion and the Press, whether or not they can do that as I have a patent or license for seven years from the Government to make them.

(Signed) JOS. LESHER,
Patentee.

While the Government probably gave Lesher cause to stamp his later products MEDALS, his literature refers to them as coins and mediums of exchange and with a spirit defiant against any interference.

Mr. Maunovry says "The Referendums were accepted as a dollar in Cripple Creek, Victor, Colorado City and Colorado Springs, and even in Denver by some banks in a speculative way. I bought several from banks." They also had limited circulation in Pueblo, but at some places their only use was as trade premiums or as items for sale as souvenirs.

In case an attempt is made to re-strike any of these pieces, the chipped and rusted condition of the dies as well as certain other marks would identify these pieces at once from the originals. That Mr. Lesher stands to redeem the pieces, as per their stamped contract, makes his indifference as to the present location of the dies indefensible, and he should deem himself fortunate that he has not been imposed upon by falsely made restrikes.

Lesher says he discontinued having more struck after enjoying a profitable market and after his interest declined. Considering the cost of dies ($60.00 a set); silver, average price 62½ cents per ounce; striking 10 to 15 cents each; punches, patent, etc., it does not appear that the scheme could have proved a financial success..

As a referendum coiner, Higley of Connecticut, with his coppers VALUE ME AS YOU PLEASE, outdistanced Lesher both in principle and liberality, and in point of time by more than a century. The Leshers as a private coin issue, having been used as a circulating medium at a time when the Government not only fulfilled all requirements but prohibited private coining, is extraordinary if not unique—its nearest companion as a private silver coin issue since the organization of our mint is the "Sprinkle Dollar" of an earlier period and in undeveloped territory, which will be taken up later.

So long as metal shall endure in the form of coin or medal and there are collectors to prize them, Joseph Lesher, Victor, Colorado, and the "referendums" will be remembered; and in the annals of Colorado history he will trail after Clark, Gruber, Conway and Parsons, not in the same class by any means but, relatively, as a private coiner of that state.

Money and Exchange.

The cables have made a great deal of the use of tobacco as currency in Northern Russia by the Slav peasants, even quoting the varying rates of exchange between cigarettes and paper rubles, but it is not so long ago that pelts passed as currency in the heart of this country. In the days before Arkansas went dry, when the inhabitants of the Ozarks were still washing down their cakes with mountain-dew, it was not an uncommon spectacle to see a mountaineer walk into a tavern, tender a fox skin for a draw of native-brew and walk out with several squirrel skins in change. Many of these people, though quite well-to-do in the matter of ordinary comforts, never saw ten dollars in real money from one end of the year to the other.

While skunk skins commanded a ready market with fur-buyers, they never acquired popularity as currency.—Wall Street Journal.

The Famous "Gem" Collection of Mr. H. O. Granberg to be Sold at Auction.

Collectors of choice American coins will be offered a real treat in the Sale of the final and finest collection of Mr. H. O. Granberg, past president and chairman of the Board of Governors of the American Numismtaic Society, whose wonderful collection will soon be offered at Auction by B. Max Mehl, of Fort Worth, Texas.

The former collections sold by Mr. Granberg were mostly the duplicates, and now his really fine collection is to be sold.

This collection is composed almost entirely of coins in the finest state of preservation. The silver portion contains more proof coins of the older dates than any similar collection that has been offered in many years.

During Mr. Granberg's activity in numismatics his aim was to get together the finest collection of coins of this country that the market offered. Whenever a choice piece came on the market, either at auction or private sale, he invariably acquired it, never considering the cost wherever there was any opportunity at all to improve a specimen. As Mr. Granberg recently stated, **the acme of perfection was sought and in the majority of cases obtained.** Most of these gem pieces were purchased by Mr. Granberg as the "finest known" and came from the largest collections and dealers, mostly from the Dewitt Smith and Steigerwalt collections.

While it is impossible to give a detailed list of all the rarities in this wonderful collecton, but a fair idea of the extent and wonderful condition of the collection may be had from the following list:

The Silver Dollars, including uncirculated and proof specimens of nearly all of the early dates, with varities of the 1836, 1838 and 1839. Complete proof sets from 1840 to date. Rare Mint marks.

Among the Half Dollars there is a 1796 and 1797, in brilliant Mint condition. Almost all other dates in Mint state.

The Quarter Dollars, the early dates of which in choice condition are more scarce than is generally known, includes a proof of the 1796, and uncirculated specimens of all other dates with a very fine 1823.

The Dimes and Half Dimes are as complete and choice as the other series, including the 1802 Half Dime from the DeWitt Smith Collection.

There are some fine Cents. Half Cents, with the rare dates of the 40's. Some scarce Medals, few rare American Colonials, some scarce and interesting Foreigns, including the Russian Platinum coins of 2 and 12 Rouble pieces in Mint condition.

Pattern coins, especially of the Dollars, including some of the very rarest known varieties, with complete sets of 1863, 1864 and 1865 silver coins WITH MOTTO. Choice and rarest Pattern Dollars of 1879 and 1880.

A nice lot of Rarities in Gold are also included, the feature of which is a collection of California Quarter and Half Dollar gold pieces, by far the most extensive that has ever been offered, and I doubt if a more complete collection has ever been gotten together. Most of these were obtained from Mr. DeWitt Smith and contains varieties never before offered at Auction.

Fine catalogs for the Sale are now in preparation. Those who have not been receiving the Mehl Catalogs, may obtain a catalog of this Sale only upon ordering a Price List of the Sale at 50c. The List will show the prices realized for each lot. Orders for catalogs and Price Lists may now be sent direct to the cataloger, B. Max Mehl, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas.

Medal Commemorating the Signing of the Treaty of Peace.

Shortly after the signing of the armistice on November 11th, 1918, The American Numismatic Society decided to publish a Peace Medal. In order to draw forth the best possible medal a competition was planned and fifteen sculptors of prominence submitted designs. From these models a Committee of Award selected the one illustrated. It was made by Mr. Chester Beach, one of the most eminent of our younger American sculptors. In his design he has provided a superb conception of what this world peace of 1919 symbolizes. On the obverse Peace is shown with the palm branch and wreath of victory—a beautiful womanly embodiment. On the other side of the winged horse, there is the manly form of Justice—a figure of Right Triumphant. The helmet of conflict is still upon his head, but the sheathed sword shows that the battle has been won. At his side, the wreathed scales appear. Justice and

Peace advance together. Above the longing for peace and justice, however, the treaty of 1919 is distinguished beyond all others by the earnest desire that in future, war may be eliminated. The powerful figure mounted on Pegasus expresses the idea of the League of Nations incorporated in this treaty. The clasped book of the law and the dynamic outstretched arm need no interpreting—the forcefulness of the type and its virility suggest that henceforth the principles of righteousness will be in control. This thought is further emphasized in the fallen figure of destruction, whose torch is being trampled beneath the foot of Justice. In its lines, in its planes and in the composition this is a monumental design.

On the reverse is shown the palace of Versailles where the treaty was signed. The sun is bursting through the clouds of war and its rays light up the facade. The whole is framed by a decorative wreath. The inscription, Peace of Versailles, 1919, and the name of the American Numismatic Society complete the design.

Members of The American Numismatic Society may subscribe for either silver or bronze copies of this medal. Through special action of the Council who believe that so fine a medal should not be limited to the membership bronze copies (but not those in silver), will be offered to others. The price for the silver medal has been fixed at ten dollars and that of the bronze at five.

Subscriptions for the bronze medals are now being received by B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas.

A Letter From Uncle George to His Nephew John.

My Dear John:

I have been thinking recently that it is much easier to become a collector today than it was when I was a youngster. It is true that there were coin collectors forty years ago, but they belonged to the wealthy and leisured classes. Today it is different, the greater majority of collectors are not wealthy and have but little leisure time. But collecting is easier today than it ever was in the past. The auction sales held from time to time give everyone an opporunity to collect the coins they are interested in, the diversity of coins offered is so great that all can find some they want—and secure if they will send fair bids for them. If a young collector does not know what is a fair bid to send for the coin he wishes to add to his collection, he has only to pay a small sum for a list of prices realized at the sale and he will be prepared to bid more intelligently the next time.

In my early days we had numismatic monthlies—no numismatic clubs. If there were any I never heard of them. Today we have both, and in them find both knowledge and friendship.

There are some collectors who seem to lack friends as far as collecting goes. They seem to take a pride in going their way alone. I pity such men. Happy is the man who has friends interested in the same hobby. As a rule the friendless collector is not a good one. While he may be without friends he may have "made" some enemies. As a rule it is pretty safe to say that a man has all the friends he deserves, and deserves all the enemies he has. There is a lot of truth in the phrase that speaks of "making" enemies. Enemies are not born—they are made. The enemy business in collecting is rotten. No sane man wishes to be an enemy if he can possibly avoid it, as he generally can. Enemies are nearly always imaginary, friends are nearly always real.

Of course, there are some who have no collecting friends—but whose fault is this? Coin collecting is a road one cannot travel without soon meeting those who would gladly become friends. Of course, if you turn your head aside as you approach, that settles it. You pass and the distance widens between you—you go on your way alone when you might have had pleasant company. I would rather walk ten miles with a good friend than five by myself.

I live in a good sized city—but I know few collectors in it. But I have two good monthly vistors—two numismatic monthlies—and I count them among my best friends. They are always at home to me, never obtrusive yet always there when wanted. The volumes for the past ten years contain a vast amount of information and form no mean numismatic library.

We have today numismatic works, books treating of every series. We have coin catalogues—everything to help us. The old time collectors lacked these—do we value them and use them as we should?

Then I have friends—the best of friends whom I have never personally met. Through years of correspondence I have learned to value them, for from them I have learned many things I might never otherwise have known. To them I owe a debt of gratitude I can never repay. They keep my interest alive in different series and from time to time entice me into fresh fields. One of them has recently infected me with the shipping fever and I am getting together a fleet of New Brunswick frigates (B. 909-912) that promise to grow to alarming numbers and guarantee the Freedom of the Seas for all time. "No man liveth unto himself," certainly no collector can. UNCLE GEORGE.

Chicago Coin Club.

The third monthly meeting of the Chicago Coin Club was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Wednesday, April 3, 1919. The following members were present: Messrs. Lawless, Brown, Kelly, Jonas, Boyer, Leon, Michael, Rachtus, Ripstra, Hinckley, Carey, Josephson, Davis and Miss Naerup. Miss Catherine Rachtus was present as a visitor.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and placed on file. The rules were suspended and Messrs. Wm. Jerems Jr., of Kansas City, Missouri; P. M. Wolsieffer, Philadelphia, and Dr. J. M. Henderson, Columbus, Ohio, were elected to membership.

Mr. Ripstra exhibited a design for the club emblem, which was accepted with minor changes. He was given a vote of thanks for the beautiful piece of work which he had prepared.

The secretary reported that he had seen the donor of the Reward of Merit Prizes and had accepted them in behalf of the Club. The prizes, a gold proof set of 1908, which are to be given to members of the Club at the meeting next March, were exhibited by the secretary.

The secretary read a paper on "Irish Gun Money," written by Mr. Lawless. This paper was illustrated by twenty-five specimens of Gun Money

The exhibits were as follows: By Mr Josephson: Gobrecht dollar of 1836, Quarter of 1796, and Half Dollars of 1794 and 1795, and a Guinea in brass of William III.

By Mr. Brown: Four varieties of 20 Heller pieces of German East Africa; one in copper and three in bronze.

By Mr. Jones: Large bronze of Augustus, Tiberius, Domitian, Galba, Nero and Agrippa.

By Mr. Leon: Two German medals; one commemorating the passing of the Nineteenth Century, and the other Count von Waldersee's visit to China, and two U. S. legal tender notes with inverted backs.

By Mr. Rachtus: Denar of Bohemia of Duke Udelarius, a Parthian Didrachm of Abkar II, a World's fair medal and some merchants' tokens of the Civil War period.

By Mr. Davis: One and two Pence and a Shilling of the Commonwealth of England and a Sixpence of James II struck for Ireland.

By Mr. Hinckley: Complete set of fractional notes issued by the Union Bank, New London, Conn., the New London Bank, the Mystic River Bank, Mystic Bridge, Conn., and by John Jeffery. These comprised all denominations from one to twenty-five, and were dated 1861 and 1864.

The following additions were made to the cabinet of the Club: By Mr. Rachtus: A medal struck at the Government Exhibit at the Word's Fair, and a Civil War Token of Freedman and Goodkind, Chicago. By Mr. Hinckley: An Isabella Quarter.

R. E. DAVIS, Secretary.

More About Half Cents.

Our comment relative to the Half Cents as published in the last issue of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY seems to have met with considerable approval among collectors.

The pleasure of collecting is derived mainly from the endeavor and success in securing a scarce and difficult-to-obtain variety. That is one of the reasons of the interest and popularity of the series of large Cents.

The Half Cents offer even a more difficult, though not as large a field for varieties as do the Cents.

Among the expressions received regarding this subject, there is one from a gentleman who has made a study of both series and we believe that his expression will prove of interest to many of our readers. He writes as follows:

"There seems to be no reason for the fine varities seeking in Cents, if the same is not to follow in Half Cents. The simple fact that there were twenty times or more Cents struck than Half Cents will in itself show the rarity of some of the Half Cents. There seems to be this difference in the collecting of Cents and Half Cents: If one is inclined and able to pay the price, he can always obtain the Cents he wants. But not so with the Half Cents, of which there are some varieties almost unobtainable regardless of price."

Irish to Issue Money. Limerick Notes to be Secured In Part by Food Supply.

LIMERICK, April 21 (Associated Press).—The general strike here, incident to the proclamation of Limerick as a military area, assumed a new phase today when the Finance Commission of the Limerick Trades and Labor Council announced that it was preparing to issue its own money in the form of 1-shilling and 10-shilling notes, which would be used in the purchase of food for the 14,000 strikers.

The money is called "Strike Treasury notes," and is secured by the stock of food which it is proposed to purchase with the financial gifts reaching Limerick from other parts of Ireland and by the "integrity of the workers of Limerick."

The announcement of the new financial scheme was made by Tom Johnson, Treasurer of the Irish Labor Congress, who announced also that the Food Commission of the Labor Council had arranged for supplies for the city. This food will be assembled in the warehouses in Limerick and sold to merchants, who will distribute it under the direction of the Labor Council at fixed prices which do not permit of profiteering.

The notes are printed in different colors to show their denominations. Those of 10 shillings are inscribed as follows:

General strike against British militarism April, 1919. The Limerick Trades and Labor Council promise to pay bearer ten shillings.

LIMERICK TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL,

Chairman.
Treasurer.

The total amount of the issue has not yet been determined, but the printing presses are already at work.

The military forces were especially watchful during the night and it is said that reinforcements have arrived.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Monthly Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

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Vol. X. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, JUNE-JULY, 1919 No. 6-7

With The Editor

The publishers of the Numismatic Monthly greatly regret that there has been an unavoidable delay in recent months in publishing the Numismatic Monthly. The oil business has so swamped all industries, and more especially the printers in this vicinity, that it has been almost impossible to obtain prompt service on any printing order. Matters, however, are adjusting themselves and will undoubtedly improve conditions considerably in the very near future.

Speaking of the oil boom in and around Fort Worth, it may not be out of place to take this opportunity of answering here the many inquiries we have been receiving from our readers.

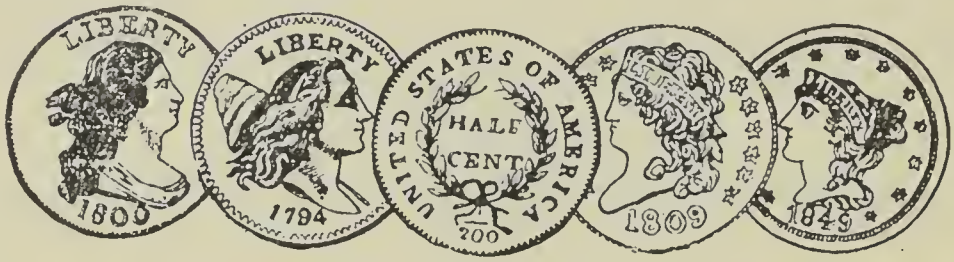
We are not interested directly or otherwise in any oil company of any kind. We are in no position to offer advice or suggestions regarding any oil investments.

The oil fields surrounding Fort Worth have been pronounced to be the greatest ever discovered. Large fortunes have been made as usual—and, "as usual," many will be lost.

In answer to the many inquiries we have been receiving, we can only say that there are opportunities of gain, but there is also an equal chance of loss, and unless one has sufficient capital where a loss of an investment will not cause any inconvenience and embarrassment, it is our humble opinion that it is best to "stay out."

Quite an innovation in the way of a new membership card has just been issued by the Chicago Coin Club. The card is attractively printed in colors to resemble an old bank bill, and the whole is enclosed in a transparent mica cover. The Club has shown wonderful interest and progress in the recent past and is proving itself one of the real live organizations of its kind in the country.

Some Rare Varieties of United States Half Cents



[Editor's Note: The following is one of the most interesting and concise articles on the Half Cents that has been published in recent years. The information contained therein can be accepted as correct, as it has been prepared by one whose knowledge of the subject was gained only after years of research and study in this particular series and who is regarded as unquestionably the authority on the subject.]

It is not our aim to try to show the rarest coin of this series and then follow them through (as to rarity) in sequence, for there would no doubt be diversity of opinion along this line and a controversy is not our seeking, but we will attempt to point out that there are many rare coins in the series (not generally known), and more especially do these appear to the collectors of "Fine Varieties," (the latter, of course, meaning various changes of a die of same type).

The so-called originals and restrikes are quite generally understood, and we will dismiss them with the statement that the most common one of the lot is the 1852 restrike and the most rare one of the lot is the 1852 Original. Yes, there is one (with large berries) and well worth owning, regardless of the fact that we occasionally see an 1852 advertised for sale, called Restrike or Original, with a question mark after it. Always take the hint before bidding, and ask whether it has large or small berries. This really should settle this "question mark" controversy.

And then we come to that staid old statement, 1796 Half Cent, "the rarest one of the series."

We dislike very much to dispel illusions of long standing, and we certainly trust the owners of this prize (and there are many of them) will overlook any apparent levity, but what depravity of rare coins there must be in a series when not less than a dozen of a type are sold at auction in a season, as has been the case with the 1796, and such a coin is called the rarest one of the series. We simply answer, "No." It is a rare coin, but we might say that we own the three varieties while there are half cents that we have never yet had the pleasure of even seeing. Funny when you think of it?

We might add that the rarest 1796 is the one without pole, perfect die. Note **"Perfect Die."**

Then we come to the '97 Lettered Edge, that other prodigy of rarity. Rare? Yes, so were eggs during the war, but the hens kept laying, and from our experience the mint also kept striking this type. However, we might add that a good egg during any period was more common than a good '97 lettered edge.

To the casual collector, this about covers the half cent rarities. A collector of standing made it a point to get some of the foregoing, then added a very fine to proof coin or two of a date, and the half cents were done to a turn—finished. What good are they in any event, when one can occasionally turn over in bed and half dream of a new die variety of a large cent which he may

add to the some 1,200 varieties? Think of this last opportunity, and the end not yet, with the half cents finished, long years ago.

We all know how absurd we appear, with glass in hand, eyes set (usually dimmed by the continued operation), looking for a slight change of some kind. Part of the game, and we never acknowledge the absurdity, too absorbed in the pleasure of the thing, but we can at least be consistent, and in being consistent, the half cent game has just begun.

In our reference to the rare varieties we will use Gilbert numbers:

1793: These are well known. Gilbert No. 2 being the most common one of the four.

Gilbert No. 4 with crack from F in OF to R in America is rare.

Gilbert No. 3 with crack in obverse is also rare.

There is a '93 very much the same as a No. 3 but more crude, with 102 milling beads and 7 in date pointed at the top, to which Gilbert makes no reference. This has been called a counterfeit, but we can see no object in its having been counterfeited, and we believe that it was one of the first or the first die made, too crude for acceptance, and the more delicate dies formed from this pattern. We have seen but one of these and this one having been in circulation and not better than good.

1794: Of the nine types—in type the Steigerwatt B's and D's (Gilbert Nos. 2, 3, 6 and 8) are the rare ones. The first eight numbers have small lettering on the edge, while No. 9 has the large lettering. If this lettering is reversed (as to size) in any of the numbers, the coin is rare.

No. 1 (without a crack across obverse) is very rare. Several of the types of this date have crack variations, some several of one type, which are extremely hard to find and can best be ascertained by a thorough search.

1794's in very fine condition are extremely unusual.

1795's: Here we find varieties of planchette which we may collect to infinity. We also note many specimens in beautiful condition and soon tire of their apparent commonness, but how many of us realize that Nos. 2, 7 and 8 are each more rare than the coveted 96?

There is no end of this date struck over Colonial planchettes, and there are back variations as numerous, some very rare.

No. 3 (without) a crack of some dimension or a slight raise over the letters of AMER in the reverse is possibly unique.

Here we find fine varieties without end.

1796's: Oh, we are all acquainted with them.

1797's: Planchette variations, as well as cracks, as numerous as in the 95's. However, outside of No. 4 we seldom find a fine specimen.

The lettered edge is the more rare type, but if someone has a No. 2

(without) the die break from chin, will they not please trade it to us for some real rare coin, a '96, for instance?

We would not pretend to advise the die crack variations in some of these 97's.

1800 seems to have a cracked reverse, and how we have searched for a perfect one.

1802: But the No. 1 usually considered and though not common, neither is it rare. However, the No. 2 is probably, from a standpoint of rarity, of greater power resistance than the three 96's combined and still the 96 is the—"rarest half cent."

1803: No. 4 is the rare type. This runs from a perfect die to cracks and breaks in die of half a dozen variations, any one of which is rare.

No. 3 of this date has cracks, breaks, bulges over date, etc., possibly a dozen different coins being required to show each change. However, the perfect die No. 3 having **no imperfections** on either the Obv. or Rev. is a **very rare** coin.

1804: Of the eleven types of this date it would require upwards of fifty different coins to show the die breaks and imperfections of all kinds.

The rare types are Nos. 9, 10 and 11.

No. 8, with imperfections of die, of which there are at least ten, is more or less common, except the **perfect die,** which is extremely rare.

Nearly all of the 1804 types have die break variations, and the rare types Nos. 9, 10 and 11 have these variations as well, the rarity of the type making it questionable whether the perfect die or some one of its die breaks are the more rare. Any condition or break of Nos. 9, 10 and 11 are rare.

1805: Type No. 3 is rare and No. 4 exceedingly rare. But few crack variations in this date.

1806: The No. 2 is not common, and but few crack variations in this year also.

1808: No. 3 is rare and its distinguishing marks doubtful.

1809: None of the five types are rare, though several of the die break variations are elusive. There is a No. 5 with re-engraved die under dash in Reverse, showing crude diamond shaped ornamentations, which is extremely rare.

1811: Generally understood. The restrikes few in number and the No. 2 with the break in die the rare variety.

The later numbers, outside of restrikes and originals, may be summed up as of no particular rarity except some instances of die varieties (here and there) which the die variety seeker will learn by research. However, in order to point out what may be found in these late dates, we would state that there are very thin planchettes (extremely unusual) and the No. 2 1826 with the die broken out to border over the fourth and fifth stars on the left may possibly be unique in this form.

There are many variations that we might have mentioned, such as block lettering instead of split lettering in the 1793's, showing that the dies were worked over; also counterstamped 1794's by some of the West Indian Islands, showing that these coins were used there, but in the main we have pointed out that there are half cents of some rarity. So let us get together and see if we cannot impress upon dealers who catalog coins for sale, that the 1797 is **not** the rarest half cent.

Notes of Numismatic Interest

By M. SORENSON.

The Illinois Centennial half-dollar, coined in August, 1918, happens to be the thirteenth in our series of commemorative coins. This doesn't seem to effect the popularity of the coin, which is in great demand, and no doubt soon can be counted scarce. It is a coincidence, though, that the Lincoln half-dollar is our prettiest coin yet.

An old advertisement in the Birmingham Gazette of 1808 throws light on minting conditions of the period. The advertisement runs thus:

"Any Manufacturer disposed to make Provincial Halfpennies and Farthings, of good copper, is requested to send the lowest terms on which he can execute the same, directed as follows: To be put into the letter-box of P. P. No. 9 Skinner Street, Snow Hill, London. The Proposals must specify the lowest Price per Hundred Weight when made, and what Number of Halfpence he intends making to each Pound Weight (which must be as numerous as possible). The Proposal must contain the real Name and Abode of the Party, or it will not be replied to; nor can it be put into the letter-box unless post paid."

A sack of one thousand silver dollars just delivered to a San Francisco bank has been in the vault of the subtreasury since the day the coins were minted, October 21, 1891. The bank figures that if the money had been drawing interest from the date it was coined, the sack would now be worth $3,000 instead of $1,000.

It is commonly supposed that merchants gave the initiative to the use of currency, but according to the following story this is not so.

In the public library at Heidelburg, Germany, is an old manuscript by Antonio Agavida, dating from 1487, describing the capture of Granada. The old manuscript relates how, during the siege of the stronghold Alhambra in 1484, the commander, Count Tendilla, ran out of money wherewith to pay his soldiers and for supplies. The soldiers were getting dissatisfied at not receiving their pay. The Count then wrote a number and signed his name on bits of paper, which were given the soldiers. At the same time orders were issued to the effect that these bits of paper were to be received as money, and that merchants had to receive them as money in payment of goods, bought by the soldiers. All who refused to take the notes were to be punished.

The notes came to circulate freely in the city, and the old chronicle says that the Count later "justly and christian like" redeemed his notes.

This is supposed to have been the origin of our currency. The idea was so well liked by the merchants that they soon adopted the scheme, and the use of paper money spread from one country to another.

In a magazine just received from Europe I find an illustration of a printing press installed in a box car near the German west front, turning out currency wherewith to pay the soldiers. Good money, that!

During the last six months of the year 1918 there were coined the following U. S. coins:

Half-dollars	11,117,600
Quarter-dollars	14,029,000
Dimes	13,820,000
Nickels	11,572,500
Cents	121,874,300
Illinois Centennial half-dollars	100,058
Total	172,513,458

This refers to coins struck for U. S. only. In the period stated there was coined for the Philippines 7,435,000 pieces of silver, 780,000 nickel, and 3,060,0000 bronze coins. Besides an extensive coinage was done for several foreign countries. No U. S. gold was coined during the entire year.

A man can sell his soul and happiness for money—but he can't buy either with the same medium of exchange. He can sell his patriotism, his love of country for cash, but nothing he possesses will purchase either of these. He can barter away his peace of mind, his contentment for silver, and it is a comforting fact that he can insure those same things if he makes proper use of his wealth.

Nothing can make people more unhappy than money, if all they do is count it. Nothing can make people happier than money—if they know how to use it.

The United States stands in the unique position of possessing more gold than any nation has ever before owned at one time, but if we are to perform the part that destiny seems to have laid out for us as the world's banker, it will without doubt be neeessary to further our gold holdings, and for this reason encourage to the fullest extent the production of that metal.

The denunciation in the Bible, in Exodus xxii, 25, shows that banking institutions were of very ancient date. The earliest modern bank was that of Venice in 1171, which was finally closed by the conquest of the French in 1797. Several of the early banks began at the following dates:

Venice	1171	Bank of England	1694
Geneva	1345	Scotland	1695
Barcelona	1401	Copenhagen	1736
Genoa	1407	Berlin	1765
Amsterdam	1607	United States	1780
Hamburg	1619	St. Petersburg (Petrograd)	1780
Rotterdam	1633	Ireland	1783
Stockholm	1688	France	1800

Coins and Medals Relating to Peace Treaties

Exhibited at the Meeting of the New York Numismatic Club.

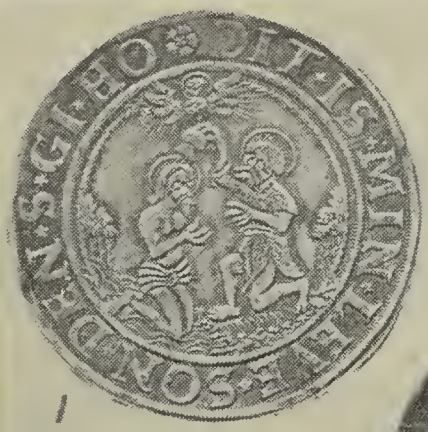
By MORITZ WORMSER.

1 Magdeburg "Interim" Thaler, (1550).
2 Peace of Passau 1555. 1855 Thaler, struck in commemoration of 3rd Centennial by Frankfort.
3 Peace with the Turks. 1604. Holy Roman Empire. Emperor Rudolf II.
4 Convention of Leipzig, 1631. Saxony Medal.
5 Peace of Westphalia, 1648. Broad Medallic Thaler.
6 Peace of Westphalia, 1648. Medallic Thaler.
7 Peace of Westphalia, Hamburg, 2 ducats on celebration of anniversary 1649.
8 Peace of Westphalia, Regensburg Medallic Thaler on celebration of anniversary, 1649.
9 Peace of Westphalia, Nurnberg 1649, square "Hobby-Horse" Ducat.
10 Peace of Westphalia, Saxony Gotha Thaler 1650, upon celebration.
11 Peace of Westphalia, Saxony Electoral line, Triple Thaler, upon celebration.
12 Peace of Westphalia, 1st Centenary, 1748, Dutch Medal.
13 Peace of Westphalia, 1st Centenary, 1748, Leutkirch, ducat.
14 Peace of Westphalia, 1st Centenary, Kaufbeuern, Medal.
15 Peace of Nymwegen, 1679, Mayence Thaler of Arch Bishop Anselm Francis.
16 Peace of Ryswick 1697, Mayence Ducat.
17 Peace of Ryswick 1697, Mayence Ducat, different type.
18 Peace of Ryswick 1697, Mayence Double Ducat.
19 Peace of Ryswick, Anniversary Celebration Thaler of Nurnberg, 1698.
20 Peace of Ryswick, Anniversary Celebration, 5 ducats, 1698, Nurnberg.
21 Peace of Rastatt, 1714, ducat of Baden.
22 Peace of Breslau, 1742, Satyrical Medal upon Pragmatic Sanction.
23 Peace of Aix-La-Chapelle 1748, Medal.
24 Peace of St. Hubertusburg, 1763 Nurnberg Thaler.
25 Peace of St. Hubertusburg, 1763 Austria Medal.
26 Peace of St. Hubertusburg. 1763 Hamburg, ½ Portugalese.
27 Peace of Teschen, 1779 Thaler, Brandenburg-Ausbach.
28 Peace of Basle, 1795. Fred'k. William II of Prussia.
29 Peace of Frankfurt 1871, Prussia Thaler.
30 Peace of Frankfort 1871, Bavaria Thaler.
31 Peace of Frankfurt 1871, Saxony Thaler.
32 Peace of Frankfurt 1871, Bremen.

Remarks.

It was correctly stated that the number of coins and medals struck to commemorate peace treaties is very large; yet after spending some time in looking over my collection, I could only muster the above comparatively small exhibit. It is quite varied, however, and presents a concise survey over European history for the last 450 years.

An admirable work on the subject is the auction catalog of our fellow member, Mr. M. Schulman, of a sale held in October, 1913, entitled "Pax in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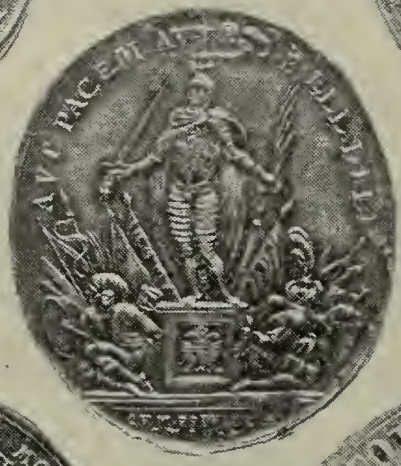
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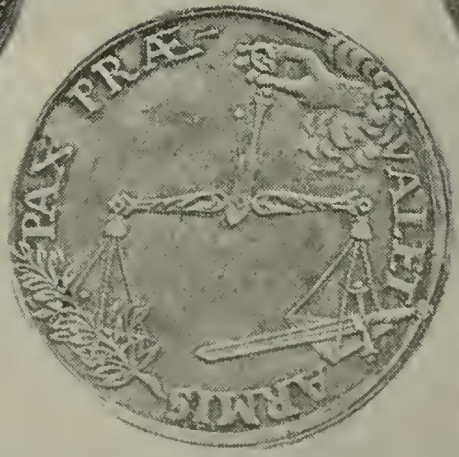
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Nummis," to which I have had reference, and the arrangement of which I followed, i. e. in chronological order, but grouping anniversaries immediately after the original event.

No. 1 commemorates satirically the very temporary religious compromise, in 1550, known as the "Interim," by which the contentions between the Protestants and Catholics were patched up in a manner satisfactory to neither side, and the coin, struck by the city of Madgeburg, represents the Interim in the shape of the Devil, with the sentiment, "Get thee hence, Satan, thou Interim."

These religious differences were more permanently and satisfactorily adjusted a few years later by the Treaty of Passan in 1555, which was to keep the religious bones of contention in balance for about 50 years at any rate, and No. 2 represents the 3rd Centennial of this event, celebrated by the City of Frankfurt.

No. 3 is an interesting oval medal struck by Emperor Rudolf II, upon a treaty with the Turks, in 1604, the name of which, however, does not appear.

No. 4 is a medal, celebrating a convention concluded at Leipsic in 1631, for the purpose of further adjusting religious matters under dispute.

The succeeding series, Nos. 5 to 14, commemorate the all important Peace treaty of Westphalia, which brought to a conclusion the terrors of the Thirty Years War, and pacified warring Europe for a few years, as well as various celebrations held upon its ratifications, and upon its centenaries. Thus, No. 7 commemorates the celebration of the City of Hamburg; No. 8 with the picture of Noahs' Ark and the Dove of Peace that at Regensburg; No. 9, the celebration at Nurnberg, when the Imperial Delegate, Count Piccolomini, was honored by a parade of boys on hobby-horses, to whom these coins were thrown as prizes; and No. 11, a very fine Triple Thaler, of the Elector John George of Saxony. The Centennial celebrations in Holland, at the towns of Leutkirch and of Kaufbeuern, are memorialized in Nos. 12, 13 and 14.

The next series show peace treaties, incidental to the wars against Louis XIV of France; the attractive Thaler of Arch-Bishop Anselm Frances of Mayence, No. 15 with a scale weighing the olive-branch of peace against the sword of war, for the Peace of Nymwegen in 1679; and the three gold coins of Lothar Francis, archbishop of Mayence (Nos. 16-18), with the emblems of Peace in the shape of Concordian Pax, and an altar.

The anniversary of this Treaty was apparently celebrated with some consequence at Nurnberg in 1698, as the Thaler and 5 Ducat piece, of similar dies, Nos. 19 and 20, were issued there.

The treaty, though called a "universal peace," did not last long, however, being only a scrap of paper, as only a few years later the war of the Spanish succession again engulfed Europe in the throes of war.

While the peace treaty of Utrecht terminated this war for some of the involved powers, France and Germany came to an understanding only about two years later, at Rostatt in the lands of Ludwig, the young morgrave of Baden, under the guardianship of his mother, Frances Sybilla, who issued the attractive ducat No. 21, showing their conjoined heads.

The following group recall to us the wars of that old militarist expert, Frederick the Great; No. 2, a Dutch satirical medal upon the woes of Maria Theresa, showing four powers attempting to cut a map of her lands at the peace of Breslau in 1742; Nos. 24, 25 and 26 upon the blessings of peace after

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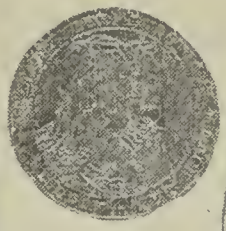

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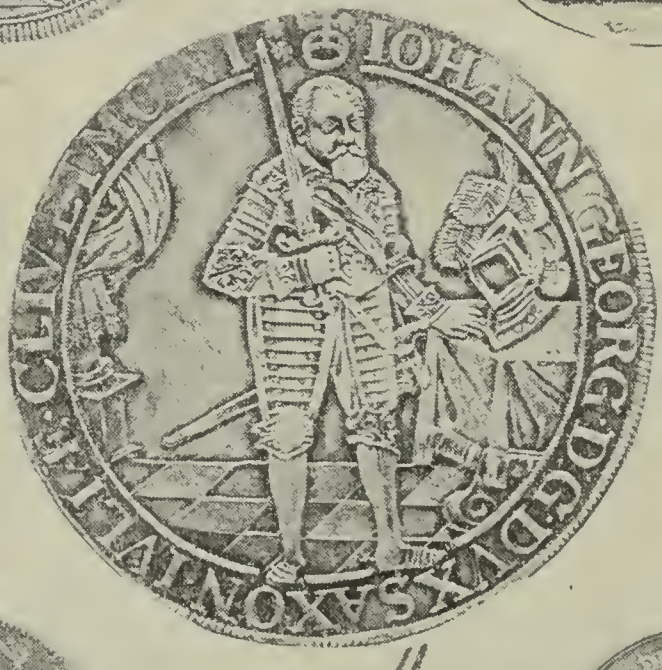

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the treaty of St. Hubertusberg following the burdens of the Seven Years' War, and No. 26, particularly showing the Temple of Janus closed; finally No. 27 upon the Peace of Teschen, concluded between Bavaria, Prussia, Austria and Saxony.

No. 23 belongs to this period and is especially interesting, commemorating the peace treaty of Aix-La-Chapelle, in 1748, between France, England and the United Provinces, and at the same time an eclipse of the sun. One side shows the sun in eclipse, above a landscape, emblematic of war; and the other, part of the globe, radiant with sunshine to which the dove of peace ascends. To quote the above mentioned catalog:

"After the definite conclusion of the Peace of Aix-La-Chapelle, the preliminaries of which had already been signed the night of April 30-May 1st, an eclipse of the sun appeared, on July 25, 1748, which was visible in Europe, Asia and Africa. When a short while later, the sun shone brightly again, the hope of peace was again revived."

No. 28 belongs to the period of the wars incidental to the French Revolution, when in April, 1795, the Peace of Basle was concluded between France and Prussia, by which Prussia dropped out of the coalition of European sovereigns, against the Young Republic.

The last four numbers finally commemorate the end of the Franco-Prussian war in 1871, as celebrated by several of the constituent political parts of the German Empire, that of Saxony with a figure of peace astride a horse being particularly attractive, even though it shows the characteristic German exultant militancy.

The Maria Therera Dollar

Prepared for Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

By M. SORENSON.

The Maria Theresa dollar—like the Mexican silver dollar—has held a unique position in the monetary history of the world in that it was coined for countries which in no way were connected with the country of issue. The Mexican dollar was for years the standard coin in the Orient, and the Austrian Maria Theresa dollar has up to the present time been an important article of commerce, as well as a medium of exchange in the Aden-Red Sea district. The following figures and facts concerning this dollar are contained in a report from the American Consul at Aden, Addison E. Southard. There are no accurate figures available; nor are there reliable means for securing them; but using figures obtained from merchants who have done a large business in the import and export of these coins, it is estimated that at the beginning of the war there were in circulation or hoarded as treasure in the entire district as many as 200,000,000 of these dollars.

The Maria Theresa dollar is a large silver coin apparently somewhat greater in size than the American dollar. It is accepted in this district by the natives as weighing 480 grains, or 1 ounce, and is so used in weighing civet and other commodities which are sold by small weights. In reality the coin weighs but 433.080 grains and is 0.833.33 fineness, according to local banking

representatives. All of these coins are the same in design and are dated 1780. On one side is a bust of Queen Maria Theresa, of Austria, and on the other is the Austrian double eagle. The workmanship is somewhat crude, and although the dollars have been minted up to modern times the style of die, the date, etc., has never been changed. The reason for this is that the original Maria Theresa dollar established among the natives of this district was that of 1780, and any change would not have been understood by the Arabs and Abyssinians, who use it the most, and would probably have affected the market value and ready circulation in the commerce of the district. The dollar is not milled and the design on each side thus becomes considerably worn with use. A worn dollar is not accepted at full value. As long as the crown on the queen's head and a brooch on her shoulder are sufficiently distinct to show the number of jewels which they contain—7 for the crown and 10 for the brooch—the dollar is accepted at full value. When these two marks become worn, and they are usually the first to show wear, the dollar loses in value accordingly.

The history of the introduction of the Maria Theresa dollar—thaler or "rial," as it is variously known here—is somewhat obscure. Local information is to the effect that about a century ago trading Arabs obtained some of these dollars and found Queen Maria Theresa's effigy so attractive that they began acquiring them to be used as jewelry by their women. This practice developed until it became the custom to hoard Maria Theresa dollars as wealth, and from that stage the dollar soon developed into a regular and popular medium of exchange in mercantile transactions. The use of the dollar soon spread to the countries on the neighboring African coast until it is now practically the only generally accepted coin in circulation in Abyssinia. It is very widely used in Arabia, although the Turkish Government has tried in many ways to prevent its circulation as money. The importation of these coins was at times prohibited and at other times an import duty of 9 per cent has been levied. The Arab is, however, so fond of the Maria Theresa that he will spare no effort to get it in return for his produce, and when the importation was prohibited by the Turkish Government there was a large and profitable business done in smuggling supplies of dollars into Turkish Arabia via Aden or Hodeidah and other former Turkish Red Sea ports.

In normal times banks and prominent merchants in Aden and in other Red Sea ports received regular importations of these dollars from Trieste, which they sold at a good profit or exchanged for native produce. The price of native produce in terms of Maria Theresa dollars changed very little. The value of the dollar did, and does, fluctuate in the seaport markets with the price of silver, and there is accordingly a chance to buy produce at much under its actual market price and thus make a handsome profit. On the other hand, an exporter might contract to pay a large sum of dollars for produce and the price of silver suddenly go up. He then stands to lose heavily. It is a game of speculation at best, but evidently a very attractive game, as there seems to have been no important effort outside of those made by the Government to eliminate these dollars as an article of commerce or as a medium of exchange.

The Maria Theresa dollar is probably found in greatest quantities in the Yemen and Aden hinterland, in other parts of Arabia, in Abyssinia, in Eritrea, in British, French, and Italian Somalilands, and in Persian Gulf ports, in the order named.

So far as can be learned this dollar has been allowed to circulate practically without hindrance on the neighboring African coast. A few years ago the Abyssinian Government had minted in Paris the so-called Menelek dollar, with fractional coins, which it was hoped would not only increase the amount of coin in circulation in that country, but would also eventually take the place of the Maria Theresa dollar in Abyssinian favor. The attempt was apparently unsuccessful, for the Abyssinian trader has not yet lost his affection for the Austrian dollar. One authority has estimated that there are at least 25,000,000 Maria Theresa dollars in Abyssinia, but it is quite possible, according to merchants doing business in that country, that there are many more than the amount named.

The rupee is the currency unit in Aden, and the local government does not recognize the Maria Theresa dollar as a medium of exchange. The Arabs who bring in produce from the interior must take their pay in rupees, which they reluctantly do. They immediately, however, take their rupees to the money changers and exchange them for Maria Theresa dollars to take back home. So eager are the Arabs to get these dollars that they will often pay a sufficiently high price for them in rupees to give the money changers a very handsome profit.

The value of the dollar is usually computed in rupees. The United States Treasury value of the rupee is $0.3244. The lowest value which the Maria Theresa dollars have reached in many years is said to have been at the rate of 100 dollars for 112 rupees, and the highest value reached is at the rate of $100 for 198 rupees, the last named figure being a recent quotation. Since the price of silver has gone up a very profitable business has been done by Aden-Red Sea merchants in purchasing Maria Theresa dollars for export to London or Bombay, where they are melted into bullion bars.

It is predicted that the price of the Maria Theresa dollar will go higher. There are said to be considerable quantities acquired, at from 180 to 195 rupees per hundred, which are being held in the expectation that the rate will go beyond 200 rupees. The importation of the dollars into Aden is prohibited at present, but there is a steady demand from the interior. The recently independent Arabian ports of Medi and Ghizan are at present said to be the chief importers.

The present time is one of the most interesting periods in the history of the use of the Maria Theresa dollar in that part of the world, and its immediate future will be equally interesting. In the opinion of traders, its place can never be taken by any other coin, so long as supplies are available. The Arab and the Assyrian have learned to appreciate this Austrian dollar as the only worthwhile coin to have. They like the design, and the large size is most attractive, particularly in normal times, when it could be purchased for the much smaller rupee and a few (4 to 6) annas in addition. The Maria Theresa dollar habit, like most long-established native habits, will be a difficult one to break.

Italy in 1918 issued a large silver atllero (dollar), very similar in design to the Maria Theresa dollar, officially for circulation in Eritrea, but really intended to replace the Maria Theresa dollar in the Red Sea countries. Time will show what success this venture will have.

All to the Good

I read a letter in your monthly magazine a short time ago, in which a wife, among other things, finds quite some ground for displeasure in the fact that the head of the family seems to be inclined to spend more time, and cash, for coins, than she thinks is proper for him to do, and the term "wasting money," or words to that effect, are used in the connection, by the wife.

Now, far be it from me to try and "butt in" on any family disagreement, but I fail to see where collecting of coins is a waste of either money or time, unless it is done at such moments when one should be attending to his legitimate business. In that case she would be well within her rights.

Some facts in regard to coins might be stated which might not be amiss at this time, and would perhaps help to make collecting appear in a somewhat different light, as well as proving what a good "fad" can do toward contentment, discernment, application, concentration, and, perhaps, to a wonderful extent, money saving.

For the sake of brevity and also conciseness, I have numbered the facts stated, in the old-fashioned way.

1. Collecting coins increases the faculty of discernment, or grasp of detail, because of the many small differences in design which all make for increased value, and which one must watch for carefully in order to obtain the best.

2. It augments and improves concentration and application just as any study (such as history, art, languages, etc.), is sure to do, and coin engraving is one of the fine arts, giving to us some of the best works of Mitchell, Lovett, St. Gaudens, Gobrecht, Brenner, and many other talented artists. Every language spoken, or written, or printed on this globe appears upon the money of different countries, as well as dates, portraits and historical matter which nothing else known contains in such a condensed and imperishable form; a reference book in metal, so to speak.

3. The earnest collector and student is, on an average, more contented than many, as the very fact of his being intent on gaining a fine collection keeps him often from dissipations which would, perhaps, claim not only his sleep and money, but, finally, his health and, in many cases, life as well.

4. A coin collector is a money saver. Not all, but the majority, and the minority never rules anything very great in this world; the majority **does.** His coins teach him the value of money, and the habit formed of looking carefully over his change for an 1823 or an 1827 quarter, or an 1894 (S mint) dime, makes the passing to him of "lead nickels" and "holed cents" a rare occurrence, to say the least.

And last (though, by no means, least), an enthusiastic collector is about as social a chap as one could find in a month of Sundays. What delights him more than to exhibit his treasures to a friend? And his conversation is not interspersed with oaths and blasphemy. It is sensible, instructive, and in more cases than one, chock full of humor, and look at the money he spends for cigars that his friends may enjoy a good smoke with him in his den at home, and, too, how often he stays at home, when scoffers at his fad are out until the milkman appears, reeling in often after painting the town a bright and brilliant

vermillion shade. And he wakes in the morning with a clear head, a contented mind, and a renewed determination to "get" that rare coin, which same set purpose only makes him a "sticker," and never a "slacker," in other just as sensible pursuits.

Don't you think coins are a bit worth while, and all to the good?
Why not "chum" in with him on them more? Be a sport!

Yours for "coins,"

F. E. DUTCHER.

Springfield, Mass.

The New York Numismatic Club

The regular meeting of the New York Numismatic Club was held Friday evening, June 13, at the New Grand Hotel, President A. R. Frey presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Beesley, Boyd, Butler, Frey, Kohler, Proskey, Swanson, Smith, Wyman, Wormser, and Wood, and as guest Mrs. Kudlich.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Topic for the evening: "Coins of Poland."

Mr. Moritz Wormser's exhibit was as follows:

Danzig, beginning with Stephen Bathori, down to Augustus of Saxony, and as a final piece, medal commemorating the ex-Emperor William's visit to Danzig in 1892.

Two different ducats of John Sobieski, two of Sigusmand and two of Vladislaus, with different portraits.

A ten ducat piece of Sigusmand III and a five ducat piece of John Casimer.

City of Thorn—Conflagration thaler, coins of Riga, under Swedish sovereignty, also thaler of Courland which, by the coat-of-arms, must have been Polish.

Coins of Poland, Saxony, showing Polish arms and reference to Kingdom of Poland, although mostly struck in Saxony.

Coins of Poland proper, Stephan Bathori and the Medal, Conquest of Livonia.

Thaler and ducat Stanislaus Augustus.

Two gulden 1830, Russian Domain, and five gulden 1831.

Exhibit of Mr. D. Proskey:

Medals relative to Poland: silver, bronze and white metal; 81 pieces.

Copper coins of Poland from Vladislaus I to Alexander II, 265 pieces, including Lithuania, Courland, and Riga when Polish.

Mr. Proskey's Polish silver coin exhibit to be shown at the July meeting.

He also showed bronze plaques of the Holland Society of New York, 1911-1912, latter showing seal of Peter Stuyvesant and early view of New York's docks and buildings.

Saint Esustatius Is., with Philipsburg counterstamps ½, 1, 2 and 5 Peso tokens of Caracas on ¼ reals.

New variety of San Domingo brass ¼ reals, 1848, with small lettered legend.

Sawawak 20 cents silver, 1915.

Executive Committee reported that the subject for the next meeting would be "Temperance Medals and Tokens," also to continue the subject "Coins of Poland." Also reported that they had fixed the price on the King of Italy medal as follows: $2.50 for the bronze and $7.50 for silver, and furthermore, that at the next meeting the gold medal to be presented to His Majesty King Victor Emanuel would be exhibited at the Club.

Medallic Art Committee reported that the joint committee had passed on the new club seal and exhibited the obverse and reverse design of the King of Italy medal in plaster.

Under the head of new business, the curator informed the Club that we had quite a number of valuable pamphlets and books relative to Numismatics which he requested the Club to permit him to put on loan with the American Numismatic Society.

Moved by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Weyman, that the curator be empowered to place on loan with the American Numismatic Society such books, pamphlets, etc., as he may deem advisable. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11 p. m. F. C. C. BOYD, Secretary.

The Springfield Coin Club

The 76th meeting was held at the Chamber of Commerce rooms, President Fuller in the chair. Members present, 8, as follows: Messrs. Emery, Frazier, Fuller, Morse, Oliver, Prevost, Pond and Stone.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. No treasurer's report on account of Mr. Morris being away on business.

Dr. Walter J. Weitzel of Springfield presented to the club through Mr. J. E. Morse a New England Osteopathic Association badge of their fifteenth annual convention, which has been acknowledged by the secretary.

Mr. C. A. Frazier presented the club with a metallic car ticket of the Boston Elevated St. R. R. Co.

Upon motion of Mr. Stone, seconded by Mr. Prevost, it was decided that the July and August meetings should be omitted. Next meeting will be Sept. 10, 1919. By a motion of the Springfield Coin Club it was voted to present the name in nomination of Mr. J. M. Oliver for second vice-president in the A. N. A. at this coming election. The club also voted to place in nomination the name of Mr. Preston C. Pond on the Board of Governors of the A. N. A.

Mr. William C. Stone read a paper on the Virginia coins, by C. T. Chapman of Worcester, Mass. He also exhibited some of the coins.

WILSON C. EMERY, Secretary.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Monthly Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
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Vol. X. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, AUGUST, 1919 No. 8

With The Editor

In appreciation of the indulgence of our readers during the recent tardy appearance of the Numismatic Monthly we will not issue a double number for August and September as has been our custom in the past. We are a wee bit proud of this issue for August. We consider it an interesting number, and have material for a similar issue for September and the balance of the year.

We especially invite our readers to send us any topic of numismatic interest. Ask us any question. We will answer it in these columns. Please remember that this magazine is YOURS, and that we are anxious to make it just what you would like to have it. But this can only be done by co-operation. Let the Monthly serve you as your clearing house for numismatic information. Come often.

The Victory Stamp

Once more the postage stamp has scored a home run over the cent. The new Victory three-cent stamp is a proof of this. The design is characteristic and commemorative of a great change in American history and politics. Up to the present we have stood aloof from Old World politics and have stood in splendid isolation. We have been free from foreign alliances. The new stamp is evidence of a change of policy. No nation today can live a life of isolation from the rest of the world. We may even become a mandatory power to some of the smaller states, and Uncle Sam a guardian having wards in Europe and Asia. The central figure of the new stamp is somewhat of a puzzle. Patriotic Americans will see in her the representation of Liberty. A Britisher has offered us his congratulations on the—as he terms it—noble figure of Britannia, while others hint it bears a resemblance to Germania. The five flags of the world nations are less liable to be misunderstood.

The stamp will be a memento of the great war and of our part in it. But it might officially be commemorated on our coinage. Bronze and nickel are more lasting than paper. Why should we not have a Victory coin? A Victory three-cent piece would be of great interest, not only to collectors but to the whole country.

Canada's New One-Cent Piece

Canada is, we learn, to have a new one-cent piece. Canadians will feel lost without their large cent; they are as proud of it as we are of our large nickel. Both are handy coins in an otherwise empty pocket. Their presence takes away that lonesome feeling and helps a man to face the world with confidence. The new cent will weigh 50 grains, 37½ grains less than the present one, and two grains heavier than our own.

It was suggested in the Ottawa Parliament that the design of the new coin should be more distinctly Canadian than that of the old. But governments all over the world are more conservative in their coin types than they are in those of their stamps. At present the maple leaf is the chief reverse feature of the Canadian cent. A beaver in the center, with the usual legend and date around the border, would be an innovation. We offer this suggestion to the Canadian Minister of Finance.

Good Advice for Young Collectors

A recent issue of The Numismatist contains a paper on "Forming and Caring for a Collection." It is full of good advice for collectors generally, but of especial interest to young ones. There are three warnings we would like to impress on such.

"Never intentionally buy a coin in poor condition.
Be careful not to buy copies or altered coins.
Do no try to buy every coin that is offered."

Never was better advice given to young collectors. A coin in poor condition in your collection is an eyesore and vexation for all time—better be without it.

Copies and altered coins are dangerous and tend to throw suspicion on every coin in a collection. Be jealous of your collection's good name.

It is not wise to be in too great a rush to buy every coin desired. Adopt some system, get acquainted with the history and know something of the value of the coin desired before purchasing it.

If this advice—and other valuable advice given in the paper is followed, there will not be so many discouraged collectors giving up the hobby in the future. The real collector never forgets his wants; he is always on the lookout for desirable specimens to add to his collection. But he should collect in a sane manner—there is reason in all things and in none is it more needed than in collecting.

A Medal Collecting Battalion

The Third Battalion, C. E. F., officially known as **The Toronto Regiment,** has returned from garrison duty in Germany. It is known as one of the best and hardest fighting units in the Canadian Army. Over twelve thousand men have entered and passed through its ranks since 1914. The first name on its

glorious battle roll is Ypres, where it gained undying honor in 1915. From Ypres to Cambrai, 1918, it has taken an active part in twenty great battles. The medals won include: Victoria Cross, 2; Distinguished Service Order, 13; Military Cross, 51; Distinguished Conduct Medal, 50; Military Medal, 229; Meritorious Service Medal, 4. With those mentioned in dispatches and others winning foreign decorations, this battalion has won 436 decorations. But a costly price has been paid for these honors; less than fifty of its original members returned with it.

The Coins of Syracuse

"The Syracusan coinage is one of the most interesting, both historically and artistically, among all those produced by the Greeks." A proof of this is found in the beautiful illustrations to be found in a group of pictorial post-cards, fifteen in number, of the coins of Syracuse contained in the British Museum. The reproductions are extremely fine and fully equal to any found in the most costly catalogues issued by the Museum. Considerable information and data is found on the cards. On the reverse of many of these coins, suits of armor or pieces of the same are often found. There is a reason for this. It commemorates the victory of the Syracusans over the Athenians in 413 B. C. Not having postage stamps, the victors used their coinage for this purpose. This set, and others, are published by the Oxford University Press. Every one interested in ancient coins would be wise to procure them. They can be had for fifty cents the set.

The Bank of Montreal Tokens

We understand that Dr. Courteau, who has done so much for Canadian numismatics, has in preparation a work on the tokens issued by the old established Bank of Montreal. This will treat in detail the many different varieties of the bouquet sous, the Habitants and the Side and Front-View issues of this the most important bank in Canada.

Dr. Courteau's work on the Coins and Tokens of Nova Scotia has done much to popularize that series with collectors, and we have every reason to believe that his new work, on which he has been engaged for years, will do much to create fresh interest in the 1837, 1842-1844 issues of the old established bank. The 1847 City Bank—1842 Bank of Montreal mule penny is given a well merited place as it deserves—indeed, side-views are common compared to it. Dr. Le Roux included this mule in his catalogue, but Breton did not. The number of distinct die varieties to be found in this series will be a surprise to many. Publication will be in the immediate future.

The Lincoln Cent Abroad

Merton Emerson, the correspondent of the New York Times at the Peace Conference, writes that he found nine little school girls of the historic Venetian

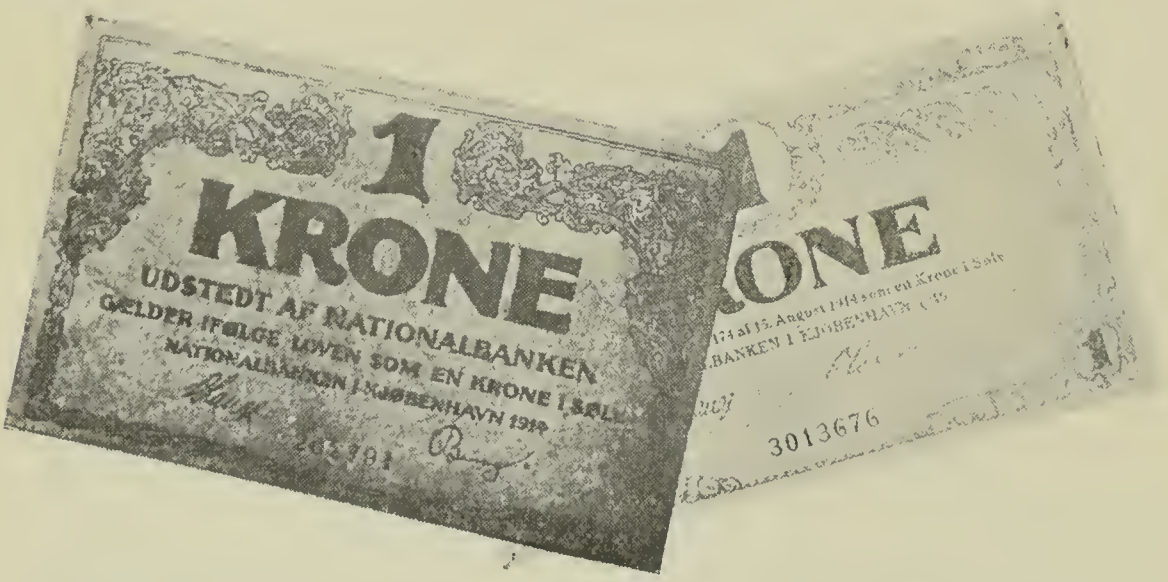
city of Zara carrying about with them shiny Lincoln pennies as their choicest possessions. Zara is a beauty spot on the Adriatic, and has a mixed population. Three of the children were of Italian parentage, three Austrian, two Croatian or Jugo-slavic, and one "Tedesco" or German, but they were all enthusiastically pro-American. The Lincoln cent has a message for the whole world and is doing its share towards making the world safe for democracy.

What Happened to Europe

An Interesting Report on the Paper Money of Europe

By FRANK A. VANDERLIP.

An important factor contributing to the present commercial disorganization of Europe is to be found in the situation of the currencies of the various nations. The chaos in the circulating medium is enough to make Europe seem like an economic madhouse. The very first days of the war saw experiments in currencies by the greatest countries. England itself in the first days of the war had to resort to a fiat issue by the government. Gold, which was the general medium of exchange aside from the Bank of England notes, disappeared from circulation overnight.



The Bank of England had a rigidity in its circulation that permitted no elasticity, and the government was forced to begin the printing of fiat notes before suitable paper could be found or adequate plates engraved. Today the amount of government notes outstanding in Great Britain amountas to more than one and a half billion dollars. Against this there is held a special deposit of gold amounting to £28,500,000 or roughly $140,000,000.

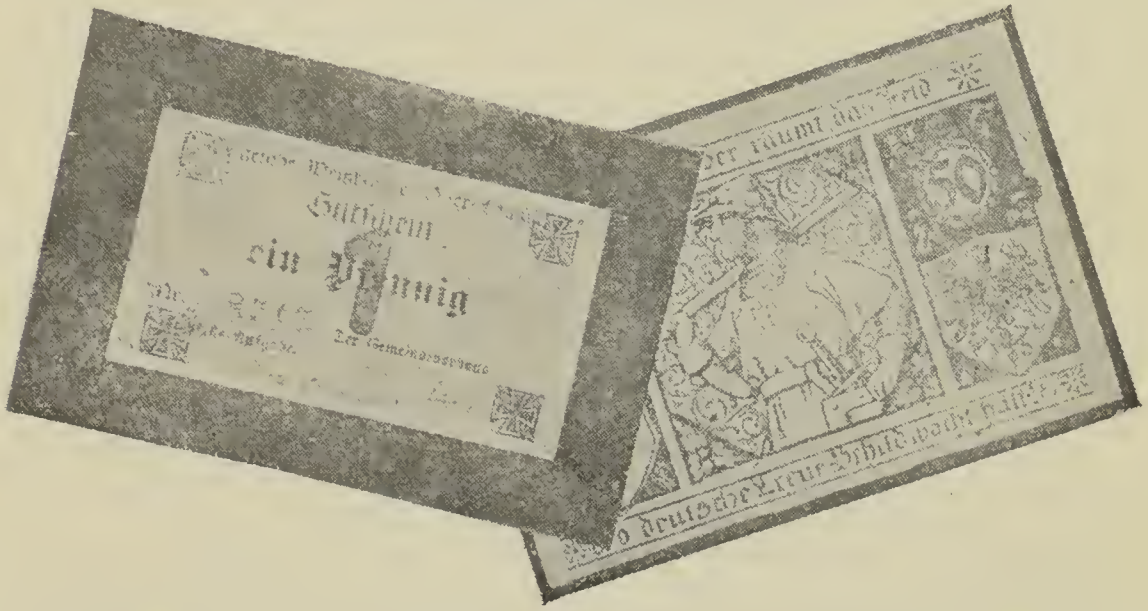
Theoretically the notes are redeemable in gold. Practically the holder of either these notes or the notes of the Bank of England would be so closely questioned in regard to the use he intended to make of the gold, if he demanded their redemption in gold, that their redemption quality is for the

present a fiction. No one is permitted to export gold from England without a government license, and that license in fact is not granted. A bank deposit in England is payable only in Bank of England notes or the government currency notes, and as these notes will not be redeemed in gold on demand, the pound sterling has ceased to represent gold.

NOTES IRREDEEMABLE.

I nFrance the sole national issue of circulating notes are those of the Bank of France. The outstanding issue of these notes of the Bank of France has gone up from about six billion francs before the war to over thirty-four billion, with the limit of authorization just raised to thirty-nine billion. The notes are at present irredeemable and all gold has disappeared from circulation.

It is well to stap a moment and translate these figures, so that our minds can grasp their significance. The circulation of the Bank of France now amounts roundly to six and a half billion dollars. France has a population of about 39,700,000. This gives an average amount of circulation per capita of $166. Our own circulation is $5,863,288,000, or $54.64 per capita. France with



its 39,700,000 of people and its area less than that of our South Atlantic States has three-quarters of a billion dollars more circulation than we have in the United States.

While the notes of the Bank of France are the only national circulation and the only legal tender, there has been issued by many of the towns of France, through the local chambers of commerce, circulating notes of small denomination.

In Italy circulation consists of ontes of the three great banks of issue, the Bank of Italy, the Bank of Naples and the Bank of Sicily. Before the war the Italian note circulation was 1,730,100,000 lire. Today it is 8,961,360,000 lire.

BANK NOTE ISSUE VARIED.

In Belgium the pre-war circulation consisted of the notes of the National Bank of Belgium. When the German government came into Brussels they

were not in a position to command a further issue by the National Bank, but they compelled the leading commercial bank, the Societe Generale, to put out an issue. The volume of this issue grew to large figures, but large as it was it was supplemented by issues by every town of importance in Belgium. I have seen a collection of these issues of Belgian and French city currency which filled two large scrap books of perhaps a hundred pages each, each page of which was covered with an endless variety of notes.

One of these, for which the ingenious and patriotic artist who designed it was subsequently lodged in a German jail, had on the back an outline sketch of a lion whose tongue protruded contemptuously. It was discovered by the German authorities after many of these were in circulation that the lion's body embraced an outline map of Belgium and the contemptuous tongue of the lion was that bit of Belgian territory that was strongly held by the Belgian troops throughout the war.

In addition to the Belgian notes there was a great flotation of German marks. When the German troops evacuated Belgium the government faced the problem of withdrawing from circulation both German marks and the forced issue of the Societe Generale. It accomplished this by giving in exchange a certain amount of the notes of the National Bank of Belgium and the remainder in bonds of the national government. As a result of this exchange it holds now more than six billion marks of German currency, an amount normally equal to one billion two hundred million dollars.

France had a similar problem in Alsace and Lorraine. With more patriotism than financial judgment France exchanged French bank notes for the marks at the rate of 1¼ francs for each mark. This cost France half a billion dollars, and she now holds a corresponding amount of marks.

SOME NATIONS WORSE.

The currency situation in Great Britain, France and Belgium was simplicity itself, however, compared with that in some of the nations on the eastern front. After the armistics Poland found itself poor in everything but currency. There were in circulation there huge amounts of Russian roubles issued under the old imperial regime, counterfeits isued by Germany, counterfeits issued by the Bolshevists, Kerensky roubles, Bolshevist roubles, German marks, Polish marks, representing a forced issue which Germany had compelled during her occupation, and perhaps of the least value of all, Austrian crowns. Here was a conglomeration of notes more intricate than anything Mr. Paderewski had ever tried to play. But he has made an attempt to straighten out the complication by issuing a new Polish currency and by taking in the forced Polish issue, returning half the notes stamped and retaining the other half against an issue of bonds, while the other currency isues are being exchanged on various terms for Polish obligations.

Serbia, Roumania, Czecho-Slovakia had almost as complicated a currency situation and have made heroic attempts to reduce the circulation by calling in all existing issues, returning part of them stamped and issuing funded obligations of the state to represent the notes retired or carried in the state's treasury.

The Austrian note issue has become so complicated and the gold reserve so slight that the gold reserve represents three-eighths of one per cent of the circulation.

Another currency complication that has added to the untold difficulties is found in the Bolshevik attempt to counterfeit successfully sterling, francs, pesetas, lire and marks. How far this has gone no one knows. Counterfeits of the circulating notes of the Bradford Bank, one of the few banks in England that has powers of issue left, aside from the Bank of England, have reached England. The governor of the Bank of England has seen no counterfeits of the Bank of nEgland note, but there is said to be a plentiful supply of them in Constantinople and throughout the Near East, where a greater confidence was shown in Bank of England notes than in any other form of paper currency; and the Bolshevists were ready to meet the demand.

NO PLACE FOR MONEY.

This program of wholesale counterfeiting by the Bolshevists is a part of their political program. In Bolshevist political economy there is no place for money. They found it was impossible to withdraw money from circulation in Russia and os they consciously set to work to make Russian money of no value by printing unlimited amounts not only of their own rouble issue, but of the Czar notes and the Kerensky roubles.

The finest money printing establishment in the world, next to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, was located at Petrograd.

The Bolshevist propaganda in other nations required money, and so they set to work counterfeiting the notes of other nations with the double object in view of furnishing funds for the immediate use of Bolshevist propagandists in other countries, and for the deeper purpose of destroying confidence of other peoples in their own circulation by injecting perfectly executed counterfeits into the circulation of other countries. No one professes accurately to know how far this diabolical scheme has been successful.

It is regrettable that in this connection the Bolshevists had the example of one of the allies, who counterfeited the mark while the war was on and gave the counterfeit paper to German socialists to help their propaganda in Germany.

In normal times of peace the great varieties of currency circulating in Europe always tended to hamper the freedom of commercial operations. The difficulties which flow in the train of the numerous and extremely complicated issues now in circulation make the currency situation on the continent a serious obstacle in the way of returning to a normal economic life.

—Fort Worth Record.

There entered a store in Mobile a darky who, after making a purchase, tendered in payment a dollar piece that had a suspicious ring.

"Look here," exclaimed the storekeeper, "you're trying to work off on me one of them false coins the counterfeiters have just been arrested for making."

"That ain't possible," said the darky, with the utmost conviction. "Jest have a look at dat dollah. It's dated 1863. If it was counterfeit, shorely de banks would have found it out long befo' dis!"

Independence Day Medal

The medal illustrated above commemorates the international celebration of Independence Day, 1918. At that time the United States had just entered the world war, and the celebration of our national birthday by the allied nations and by other nations not engaged in the conflict had an added significance. The American Numismatic Society has thought this worthy of commemoration in the form of a medal.

The design is by Mr. Allen G. Newman, the winner of the prize offered by the National Arts Club for a Valor Medal, and the designer of a medal of Joan of Arc. On the obverse, he has shown a womanly figure lightly touching the Liberty Bell. The inscription, "July 4, 1776," adds to the significance.

The reverse consists of an inscription framed by the escutcheons of the nations which took part in the celebration. Beginning at the top with the large shield of the United States, we have at its right, Great Britain, followed by Belgium, Greece, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Peru, Cuba, Portugal, Servia, Italy, ending with the shield of France next to our own shield, with which we started. The inscriptions in the center reads: "To commemorate the International Celebration of Independence Day, July 4, 1918." The seal of the American Numismatic Society appears at the end, and the whole is enclosed in a wreath of oak and laurel.

The subscription for this medal is limited to the members of the American Numismatic Society and to the membership of the Mayor's Committee on Nat'onal Defense.

Our Really First Coin

Robert Morris, the financier of the Confederation, early in 1783, arranged with Benjamin Dudley to strike off some "pattern peices" that could be placed before Congress. On April 2 Dudley delivered to Morris some pieces, which weer in reality the first coin struck having the name "United States coin." The particular specimens are known to numismatists as the "Nova Constellatio Patterns." They were of silver and denominated the "mark" and "quint." The first coins struck by the United States mint were some half dismes in 1792.

Notes, Documentory and Numismatic, on Trials of the Pyx

Paper Read Before the British Numismatic Society

by Mr. L. A. Lawrence, F. S. A.

Mr. Henry Symonds, F. S. A., in a paper published in Volume X of the British Numismatic Journal, drew attention to provisions, made in this connection, in the reigns of Henry VII and Henry VIII, and Mr. Lawrence, following the subject back to earlier times, came to the conclusion that much important information could be obtained concerning the issues of the Plantagenet Kings and the various privy marks used in connection with them. There is still much obscurity concerning the methods of the mint under the earlier sovereigns, but Edward III, in his eighteenth year, ordered trials of the pyx to take place every three months, and many particulars concerning these are to be found in the indentures recorded in the Close Rolls. Directions are given for the provision of a box, or chest, with more than one lock, the keys of which were to be in the hands of various officers, and a certain small proportion of the coins struck was to be placed in this after a preliminary examination by the mint officials. In due course this pyx was examined by experts, in the presence of the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer, by a jury of goldsmiths, and, if all was found correct, as was usually the case, the master moneyers received their acquittance. Unfortunately, the existing records, though dividing the gold from the silver, do not inform us of the amount struck of each denomination.

The whole matter requires fuller investigation before very definite results can be obtained, especially as the issues of some of the coins were comparatively small, and it has not yet been possible to compile complete lists of all the varieties to be found, some of which are naturally of considerable rarity, but the lecturer was able to produce numerous examples of changes in the form of certain letters, the insertion of an annulet or a saltire below the King's bust, or in one of the quarters—not always the same—of the reverse, or the placing of pellets between certain letters of the legend, and there is every probability that, at any rate as regards the more abundant issues, it will eventually be possible to determine, with more or less exactness, the order in which they were struck.

The New York Numismatic Club

Timely Discussion on Coins of Poland and Temperance Medals and Tokens.

A a regular meeting of the Club was held Friday evening, July 11th, at the New Grand Hotel, President A. R. Frey presiding. The following members were present: Messrs. Beesley, Butler, Blake, Boyd, Davidson, Elder, Frey, Kohler, Proskey, Smith, Swanson, Valentine, Wyman, and Wormser. As guests: Mr. L. H. Davidson and Mr. D. L. Angell.

Minutes of the preceding meeting read and approved.

Subject for the evening, "Coins of Poland and Temperance Medals and Tokens."

The President stated that the exhibits of the evening consisted of a continuation of the Coins of Poland, and the Medals and Tokens relating to Temperance, Prohibition, and Anti-Prohibition.

In introducing the latter, he said: "This is not the first time that a prohibition law has been enacted for the State of New York." He then quoted from "American Commonwealths, New York," by Horace E. Scudder, as follows: The legislature fulfilled the pledges on which a majority of its members were chosen by the passage, April 9, 1855, of a rigid prohibitory law under the title "An act for the prevention of intemperance, pauperism and crime." It permitted the sale of liquors for mechanical, chemical or medicinal uses, under strict regulations, but prohibited the traffic for all other purposes. Its provisions for search, for prosecutions, and for the destruction of forfeited liquors were very stringent. The statute gave rise to a great deal of litigation, and many cases were carried to the court of appeals, where it was declared unconstitutional in March, 1856. The decision held that in so far as the act related to liquors owned within the state when it went into effect, it could not be sustained, while the legislature might establish restrictions for liquors subsequently manufactured or imported. The act was also pronounced defective in that it took away from offenders the right of trial by jury. The decision led to a revulsion of feeling and the great controversy over slavery for the time overshadowed every other subject. The legislature in 1857 enacted stringent license laws regulating the sale of intoxicating liquors, and these have been subjected to successive amendments. They have been enforced with varying efficiency, according to the demands of public sentiment in the several localities.

The speaker closed his remarks with a brief account of General Neal Dow, the "Father of the Temperance Movement in the United States."

Thomas L. Elder exhibited what undoubtedly is the largest collection of Temperance Medals and Tokens in the United States. He showed 250 examples, which included a few duplicates, but with examples of the very earliest temperance medals issued in this country, commencing with those of the early '30s. His collection includes about fifty of the types showing the well and "old oaken bucket," the latter a favorite topic for the early advocates of sobriety. Of the Washington Temperance Societies and others he showed about a dozen with the heads of Washington; of the Father Matthew types about eight varieties with his bust; of the "fountain" types about sixteen varieties. The collection has early examples by Bale in several metals. The whole collection and the others exhibited seemed pertinent to a very timely and much discussed subject. Summary of Mr. Elder's exhibit: Bronze, 40; brass, 85; silver, 15; white metal, 70; various metals, 20; total, 250.

Exhibited by Mr. C. H. Imhoff, a copper token struck by the Prohibitionists July 4th, 1855, showing an inverted wine glass. Brass temperance token with well and bucket.

Exhibited by Mr. Wormser: 10 Fenigow 1917, Iron Money struck during the German Occupation, showing Polish Eagle.

Exhibited by Mr. Rud Kohler: 2 Zlote of Nicholas I, dated 1837 and 1839. Temperance token 1855.

Exhibited by Mr. Elliott Smith, general collection of Elder Temperance medals.

Exhibit of Mr. D. Proskey: Silver Coins of Poland, being the smaller part of his collection of that country, varying from the Bracteate of 12th Century to the Crown or Dollar sizes up to the Russian issues of 1850—over 400 different coins—the Copper Coins and the Medals having been shown at June meeting. Also a small assortment of Medals pertaining to the Temperance and Prohibition periods in the United States—57 varieties.

Dr. Valentine exhibited a collection of Polish Crowns and small size silver.

Under the head of New Business, the President called attention to the fact that one of our Honorary Members, the Marquis of Milford Haven, formerly Prince Louis of Battenberg, is evidently giving up collecting. His interesting collection of British Naval medals is to be sold at auction in London during the latter part of this month.

For the Executive Committee, Mr. Smith reported the subject for the next meeting: "Your Three Colonial Coins of North America."

The Medallic Art Committee exhibited the New Club Reverse and the King of Italy medal in gold.

Regularly moved, seconded and carried that the Club give Mr. J. M. Swanson, the designer of the above medal, a rising vote of thanks.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 p. m. F. C. C. BOYD, Secretary.

Chicago Coin Club

The sixth monthly meeting of the Chicago Coin Club was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Wednesday, July 2. Those present were: Miss Naerup, Messrs. De Cou, Leon, Hinckley, Kelley, Josephson, Bauman, Brown, Lawless, Davis and Dr. Luttenberger. Mr. T. Smalley was present as a visitor.

The meeting was called to order by the President. Messrs. Henry Donavan of Chicago and S. Pombsky of Cleveland were elected to membership. Applications were received from Thomas Elder of New York and Theodore Venn of Chicago.

A general discussion of ways and means to be employed to bring the 1920 A. N. A. Convention to Chicago was held. It showed that the Club was quite united and very much in earnest about securing the convention.

The Secretary read a letter from the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society announcing the sending of some Chicago cards and medals for our cabinet. The Secretary was asked to acknowledge the receipt of these tokens and to express the thanks of the Club for the donation.

Mr. G. H. Blake donated two copies of his work on U. S. Paper Money to the Library.

A paper was presented by Mr. Lawless giving the list of all the Popes, the time of their election, and the length of the reign of each one. This paper should be of much interest to those collecting Papal coins or medals.

Copy number 1 of W. F. Dunhan's one mill piece was sold at auction, Dr. Luttenberger acting as auctioneer. After much spirited bidding it was sold to Mr. Leon for $13.00.

The exhibits were as follows:

By Mr. Lawless: Fifty-seven very fine large copper cents, and a number of fine colonial coppers.

By Mr. Brown: A number of Belgium pattern pieces, including ten 20 centime pieces of 1860, two 10 centime pieces and one 5 centime piece.

By Mr. Leon: $1 of 1794, 1851 and 1836 (proof), half dollars of 1794, 1797, 1801 and 1802, cent of 1799, extremely fine half cent of 1796, California $50 slug of 1851, and two five drachma notes of Greece.

By Mr. Josephson: Two Chilean Pesos of 1881 and 1910 and a Peruvian silver coin of Charles and Johanna.

By Mr. Davis: Pine Tree shilling and a Chalmers Annapolis shilling.

R. E. DAVIS, Secretary.

A Letter from Uncle George to his Nephew John

My Dear John:

A question has been troubling me for some little time now and as it appears to be a quite harmless one, I am going to pass it on to you: What's the difference between a numismatist and a coin collector? When it was first asked me it seemed innocent enough. It was like an old gun—I did not know it was loaded. But it was, and it had a regular Central European kick in it.

An old collecting friend, a man I had not seen for years, was visiting with me, and of course we got to comparing notes about collectors and coins. I asked him about a mutual friend of ours and the answer was: "Oh, he has ceased to be a collector and has blossomed out as a high grade numismatist." My friend continued in substance as follows: "Yes, he is a numismatist now, and more the pity; he had the making of a really decent collector, but he got kind of chesty and now it's all over; he is just a numismatist, nothing more or less."

At first I imagined our friend had turned cataloguer or dealer, as this magniloquent term is mostly sported by such gentlemen. But this was not the case. My visitor continued: "The trouble is there are too many blamed numismatists these days and not nearly enough real coin collectors. If you doubt this fact, simply look over the last half a dozen coin sale catalogues you have received and you will see at once what I mean. I have looked over several large collections recently during my vacation this past month, and have seen nothing to speak of but hordes of dates and mint marks."

I am not endorsing all my friend's opinions—he is away behind the times in some respects. Fancy a man taking a vacation before October! But there may be something in what he said. Are collectors today running too much in one groove—are too many aiming to become numismatists?

When I had a chance I looked up our old friend Webster. He defines numismatist as "One versed in numismatics"—this means "the science or knowledge of coins and medals." This is plain sailing—One versed in the

knowledge of coins. A collector may possibly be a numismatist even if he is not the proud possessor of a 1794 cent that he has refused $500 for.

The great weakness of collectors today is many of them only value the possession of a coin by its cost in dollars. These men are in danger of becoming mere numismatists. It is not a question of how much historical or numismatic value the coin has—but how much did it cost? This is wrong—cost has very little to do with real interest—a Fugio cent with its pertinent motto, so applicable today when personal liberty is being restricted, is as interesting from every point of view as any 1804 dollar struck surreptitiously in the Philadelphia Mint.

A Canadian Brock token of 1816 is far more interesting from every point of view than a Mantreal Bridge token. A small bronze issued during the time of Augustus Caesar is fully as desirable, apart from its cash value, as any gold coin issued by the same ruler. The so-called "Tribute penny" of Tiberius is of far greater interest and numismatic value than many a coin costing one hundred times as much as the little silver piece.

Some of the most interesting coins issued in our own and other countries are by far the cheapest. The numismatist may class them "common," but the collector loves them best.

By the way, what do you think of the proposal to hold the 1920 Convention in Chicago? I am inclined to favor it provided the crowd there do not want it held in October or December. But I hardly think they would consult their own personal ends that way. They are a pretty decent bunch in Chicago and have a real Coin Club, too. They are not ashamed to be coin collectors. The trouble about the other place is, there are too many numismatists in it. But that may explain the question I started this letter with: What's the difference between a numismatist and a coin collector? UNCLE GEORGE.

New Victory Medal for War Service

Army to Award It for Active Duty from Beginning of Hostilities to Armistice—Two Kind of Clasps.

WASHINGTON.—An order by General March, as Chief of Staff, directing that war service medals be issued to men who took an active part in the war, has been promulgated. Under the order, this medal, to be known as the Victory Medal, will be awarded to all officers and enlisted men who served on active duty in the American Army at any time between the declaration of war on April 6, 1917, and the signing of the armistice on November 11, 1918, and whose service was honorable.

The medal will have battle clasps for all the major operations of the war in which the men winning the medal took part, and also clasps for service in five different countries. The clasps to be awarded for a part in major operations will be awarded to officers and men who actually shared under orders in each of the following engagements:

SOMME DEFENSIVE—Between March 21 and April 6, 1918.

LYS—Between April 9 and 27, 1918.

AISNE—On the Chemin des Dames and northeast of Rheims between May 27 and June 5, 1918.

MONTDIDIER-NOYON—Between June 9 and 15, 1918.

CHAMPAGNE—MARNE—Between July 15 and 18, 1918.

AISNE-MARNE—Between July 18 and August 6, 1918.

SOMME OFFENSIVE—Between August 8 and November 11, 1918.

OISE-AISNE—Between August 18 and November 11, 1918.

YPRES-LYS—Between August 19 and November 11, 1918.

ST. MIHIEL—Between September 12 and 16, 1918.

MEUSE-ARGONNE—Between September 20 and November 11, 1918.

VITTORIO-VENETO—Between October 24 and November 4, 1918.

Clasps will be awarded to each officer and enlisted man who served overseas and is not entitled to a battle clasp as follows:

FRANCE—For service in France between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918.

ITALY—For service in Italy between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918.

SIBERIA—For any service in Siberia.

RUSSIA—For any service in European Russia.

ENGLAND—For service in England between April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918.

A bronze star, three-sixteenths inch in diameter, will be placed on the service ribbon for each battle clasp awarded. When an officer or enlisted man has been cited in orders issued from the headquarters of a force commanded by a general officer for gallantry in action, not justifying the award of a medal of honor, distinguished service cross, or distinguished service medal, he will wear a silver star for each such citation.

Pending the procurement and issue of the Victory Medal, organization commanders have been authorized to permit those serving under them to wear the service ribbon and stars to which they are entitled as shown by their records.

Sure, We Want Our Readers' Opinions

Send Us Your Suggestions, or Ask Any Numismatic Question.

"Enclosed is renewal for the Numismatic Monthly.

"Have read with great pleasure and profit every issue since 1916 and have each copy filed with index in my collection of Numismatic Books. I know you would liketo know what the readers like most; I'll just say that the best in last issue was 'Half Cent Notes.' But for the love of Mike, don't drop the Question Box. Also help boost Chicago for the 1920 A. N. A. Convention."

L. H. POMPA.

Elusive

A dollar isn't quite the same
As in the days of yore.
It gambols through the busy game
More swiftly than before.
It's handed 'round for ham or rice;
Each task is swiftly done.
The same day you may meet one twice,
But always on the run.

With prices all exceeding high,
Its value grows so short,
Where once a gallon it would buy
It scarcely buys a quart.
'Mongst strange illusions which must strike
With wonderment our eyes,
We find a dollar looking like
Just 'two bits" in disguise.

—Washington Star.

Correction on the Zerbe Numbers of the Lesher Pieces

Mr. Farran Zerbe, author of "The Lesher or Referendum Pieces," originally published in the American Journal of Numismatics and reprinted in the May issue of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY, calls our attention to an error in the plates accompanying the article in the MONTHLY. No. 7 should be No. 10, and No. 8 (Goodspeed) should be No. 12.

Since the publication of Mr. Zerbe's article, the demand for the Lesher pieces has increased greatly. The several specimens that were offered in Mr. Granberg's collection, which was sold by B. Max Mehl on July 16th, all brought record prices.

Medal Commemorating the Signing of the Peace Treaty Ready Soon

The subscribers for the beautiful and historically interesting medal Commemorating the Signing of Peace will soon receive their medals, which are being isued by the American Numismatic Society of New York. The medal was illustrated in the May issue of the Numismatic Monthly. The bronze medals may be purchased by non-members of the Society at $5.00 each. Orders are being booked by B. Max Mehl, Mehl Bldg., Fort Worth, Texas. Those desiring this fine medal had best forward their orders promptly.

Over $1800.00 Paid for Ten Silver Dollars

A Few of the Prices Realized at the Sale of Mr. H. O. Granberg's Fine Collection, Sold on July 16, 1919, by B. Max Mehl, Fort Worth, Texas.

U. S. Silver Dollars:

1794	Good	$ 41.00
1795	Bust type, Proof	21.00
1799	5 stars facing	11.50
1801	Restrike, Proof	42.00
1802	Restrike, Proof	42.00
1838	Plain edge	290.00
1838	Milled edge	310.00
1839	Stars, plain edge	565.00
1851	Proof	71.00
1852	Proof	83.00
1858	Proof	31.00
1872	C C Mint	9.45
1884	Trade Dollar	260.00

Half Dollars:

1795	2 leaves. About Unc.	26.25
1795	3 leaves	105.00
1796	Sixteen stars	88.50
1796	Fifteen stars	260.00
1797	Very fine	63.25
1806	over '05	3.25
1846	over inverted 6	6.85
1839	O mint	5.10

Quarter Dollars:

1796	Proof	41.75
1804	Ex. Fine	42.00
1807	Unc.	13.65
1823	over '22	102.00
1831	Proof	4.75
1849	O mint	6.30
1873	CC. No arrows	46.00

Dimes:

1796	Unc.	12.00
1798	Ex. Fine	19.50
1801	Ex. Fine	24.25
1804	Prac. Unc.	52.50
1805	Unc.	12.60

Half Dimes:

1792	Half Disme	31.00
1795	Newlin No. 7	26.00
	Cent, 1795, Fine	6.50
	Cent, 1797, Fine	5.00
	Half Cent, 1844	65.75
	$10. Gold, 1797.	20.00
	Calif. Gold Dollars, from $2.50 to $19.50 each.	
	Calif. Gold Quar. and Half Dollars, from $1.00 to $17.50.	
	Libertas Americana Medal	9.00
	Treaty of Commerce Medal	12.00
	Confederate Cent, Silver	12.00
	Lesher dollars. Nine pieces, sold at from $8.40 to	17.25
	Bryan Piece, Elephant	13.75
	Russia, 3 Rubles, Platinum	41.00
	Russia, 12 Rubles	136.00
	Sweden, Gustav Adolphus quadruple crown	60.00
1861	U. S. Gold Dollar, D mint	85.00

The Sale contained 946 lots, practically all unusual specimens. The total amount realized was over six thousand dollars. A complete list showing the amounts realized for each lot may be had for fifty cents by those who have the catalogue. Those who have not the catalogue may obtain it with the price list at $1. by addressing B. Max Mehl, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas.

The second portion of Mr. Granberg's fine collection will be offered at auction soon. Catalogues may be had without charge by all who are interested.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Monthly Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

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Vol. X. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER, 1919 No. 9

With The Editor

The Sale Catalogue as a Book of Reference

One of the most prominent British numismatists (Mr. W. J. Andrews, F. S. A.) says that "few numismatic works are so widely read as the Sales Catalogues of our great collections, and their general information and accuracy has converted them into books of reference."

There is a reason for this. A catalogue of any fairly complete series, the collecting of which has taken up years of an advanced collectors' life, contains a mass of detailed information of the greatest value to all, more especially to the young collector. A study of such catalogues is instructive and educational, and especially so when the list of prices realized for each lot is found in it. There is no better investment than the purchase of these lists; they show what advanced and experienced collectors are willing to pay for the coin you want. The collector who secured that piece based his bid on an experience of many years. You have the benefit of his experience and years of study by merely securing a copy of the list. No real up-to-date collector can afford to do without it.

Swedish Settlement in North America

Every now and again there is a revival of interest in the Colonial coins of North America. The British, French, Dutch, Spanish and Swedes have all had settlements and colonies on this continent.

How many remember the fact that portions of New Jersey and Delaware were once Swedish settlements? Wilmington, Del., was first settled by the Swedes in 1638. About 1655 they were driven out by the Dutch, who in turn were succeeded by the British in 1664, who in turn sold off what was then known as New Netherland to William Penn in 1674. Penn became Proprietor of Delaware in 1683. In 1776 it declared itself an independent state, and was the first of the original thirteen states to ratify the Federal constitution.

Metal Street-Car Tickets or Checks

Metal transportation checks seem to be on the increase and steadily growing in favor with collectors. They are found in actual use in all parts of the Union. Away down East, in the middle West and on the Pacific coast they are both used and collected. Their use is not confined to this country and the collector can add specimens from practically all over the world to his collection. Mexico, South America, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia, Canada, and several European countries provide varieties of shape and metal. Glasgow, Scotland, where public ownership is in force and the street railways are owned and operated by the City, has them in porcelain or china, different colors for differing values. Some companies have issued them in rubber.

Franc and Mark Exchange in New York

Francs and marks are quoted on a different basis. Thus, "mark cables 6¼" indicates that the mark is worth in New York 6¼ cents, whereas "7.22 for franc cheques" does not mean that a franc is worth only 7.22 cents, but that $1 is equal to 7.22 francs (which figures out 13.85 cents for one franc).

Chicago—The 1920 Convention City

We do not know at time of writing whether any other city intends seriously to challenge Chicago's claim that next year's Convention be held there. There possibly will be some good-natured rivalry for the honor. It is whispered that Baltimore wants it, but just now it seems as if Chicago stands a good chance of being the winner. The Chicago Club seems to be in earnest about it and is taking steps that seem almost certain to make it a sure thing. While they have no Atlantic City within reach, there is a very fair sized lake. The climate is more temperate than that of Philadelphia and without the fierce torrid heat that makes a Convention before October so undesirable and unpleasant in the City of Brotherly Love.

Old World Collections to be Sent Here for Sale

It is said that one of the results of the present general unrest in Europe will be that several large and costly collections will be forwarded to this country for sale. If this is done it will be because the American market is considered superior to the European. The trend of money is towards America at present, and the rate of exchange tells its own story. The American dollar is worth its face value or more the whole world over. In Canada it is worth five cents over face value, but here the Canadian dollar is worth only ninety-five cents at present. There is considerable difference in the composition of American and European collections. Here, our own series naturally has first place—but in European collections it occupies a very secondary position. We need not look for an influx of American rarities from the coin collections of the Old World.

The Coinage of Latin America

MEXICO

This is the first of a series of articles on the Latin American Coinage
Prepared for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY

By M. SORENSEN.

We have studied our own series until we know every die crack and every period, and this is right and proper. We have studied the Canadian pennies—all good and well. But we have woefully neglected our neighbors in the South, though they have much of interest to show us. With a view of aiding collectors, interested in the coinage of our sister republics, these notes are respectfully submitted to the readers of "The Numismatic Monthly." No attempt will be made here to describe the many different series, as that would demand far more space than can be allowed for these articles.

Whatever might be said of the old Spanish rulers, and their rule or misrule of the American colonies, they must he given credit for one thing. No attempt was ever made to debase the coinage, a trick which several other kings of the time tried to play; but it was a trick which always brought sure revenge. The standard of the colonial coinage of Spain was the same as that of the mother country; and while there is considerable variation from the normal in a large percentage of the pieces, it is approximately as follows: Gold, before 1772, 22 carats or 917 thousandths fine; 1772-1785, 21½ carats or 896 thousandths fine; and after 1785, 21 carats or 875 thousandths fine. The weight of the Onza or Doubloon remained 418 grains throughout.

Silver, before 1772, 11 dineros or 917 thousandths fine, and after 1772, 10 dineros 20 granos or 903 thousandths fine. The weight of the Peso was, normally, 412 grains both in the earlier and later periods.

To the silver coinage of the Spanish-American mints, and later to the Mexican silver dollar, justly belongs the title and distinction of international coinage—an importance that has marked comparatively few issues in the history of the world. It is this international character of these coinages which

gives them a much greater importance to students of history or economics than would be warranted by the political and commercial history of the issuing countries, at least in the last century.

In 1542 the Spanish colonies in America were formed into two vice-royalties, one in North America with Mexico as its capital city; the other in South America, of which Lima was the capital. In 1739 a third vice-royalty, that of New Granada, was created; and a short-lived fourth one was erected in 1776 with Buenos Ayres as its capital city. In each of these vice-royalties a mint was established at an early date, and in some of them a second and a third mint became necessary because of the extensive production of the precious metals and the remoteness of mining centers from existing mints. The issues of the different American mints were, with occasional and unimportant exceptions, alike in respect to types and standard, and in the main constituted a single series, with a variety of mint marks.

The first of the mints to be established in America was at the City of Mexico, in the reign of Charles I. (Charles V. of the Empire) by decree dated May 11, 1535. In the vice-royalty in South America the first mint was established at the capital city of Lima by Philip III. (1598-1621); and by Philip IV. a second and more important coinage establishment was opened at Potosi, in Bolivia, in 1650. The important mint at Santa Fe de Bogota soon followed in the reign of Charles II. (1665-1700) in what afterwards became the vice-royalty of New Granada, and by Philip V. (1701-1724-1746) the first mint in Central America was erected at Guatemala.

At first these mints coined nothing but silver, but in 1675 the American mints were accorded the right to coin gold. The denominations of the gold series were the Onza, also called the Doubloon ($16), and its divisions of the Medio Onza or four Escudos, the Cuarta de Onza, the Escudo, and the Medio Escudo or gold Peso. All these denominations were struck at some of the mints in the first year that the coinage of gold was authorized.

The large production of the precious metals in the American colonies kept the Spanish mint very active, an activity that was doubtless considerably stimulated by legal restrictions on the exportation of gold and silver bullion, for this restriction made it necessary to coin the metal in order to dispose of it in the channels of trade. Soon after the accession of Ferdinand VII. to the throne of Spain the revolting Spanish colonies one by one achieved their independence, and any further notice of the history of their coinage deals with that of the various Republics then founded.

The history of the types of Spanish coinage in Mexico falls into four periods. The first issues have for obverse type a crowned shield of arms—the arms of Leon, Castile, and Granada—and for the reverse two crowned pillars—the Pillars of Hercules—emerging from the sea; and across the field, the legend, PLUS ULTRA, with a figure between the pillars to indicate the value. In the second period, the types as well as the standard are the same as those of the coins of Spain, in accordance with a decree of Philip II., dated May 10, 1570. These types were the crowned shield of arms and the cross; and the American coins of that period are distinguished from the Spanish coins of Europe only by the additional ET INDIARUM in the title of the king, and by the mint mark. However, the gold coinage of Charles II. at the Mexican mint

did not conform to the decree, but was issued with the old types of the Pillars of Hercules. Another change in the types took place in 1732, when in accordance with a decree of Philip V., issued in 1728, the cross on the reverse was supplanted by a type composed of two hemispheres crowned, above the sea, and flanked by the two crowned Pillars of Hercules. To the Peso of this type was transferred the popular name of "Pillar Dollar," which had originated with the first issue above noted. Finally, on September 15, 1759, a decree was issued requiring the coins of the Spanish-American colonies to bear, for obverse type, the bust of the King, and although patterns for the new type of coins were approved in 1761, yet it was not until 1772 that the first coins presenting the effigy of Charles III. appeared. The type of the reverse for this period was the familiar one composed of a crowned shield of the arms of Castile, Leon, and Granada between the Pillars of Hercules.

In addition to the series of coins regularly issued by the Spanish-American mints, a large number of commemorative pieces are of the greatest interest. The events most frequently commemorated were the accessions of the Spanish monarchs; and the proclamation coins issued, not only by the mints in the name of the State, but also, and even more important, those issued by cities and cathedrals, form a considerable series in all the denominations of silver. After the Spanish domination had come to an end and independent Republics had succeeded, the issuing of commemorative coins, and coins that were memorials to distinguished generals or civil magistrates, became even more frequent. The series of coins, by thus adding a certain medallic character, possess thereby a greatly enhanced historical interest and importance.

During the years of struggle for independence in Mexico there were several issues of necessity money, the most notable being the coinags of the two military leaders, Vargas and Morelos. Most collectors are thoroughly familiar with these issues and know that most of the coins of Vargas' issue were made with the hammer and puncheons. These coins were issued at Sombrerete. The coins of Morelos were for the most part cast in molds and are very irregular, both in shape and size, especially the bronze.

After several years of desultory warfare, in which the republican cause seemed completely lost and the leaders scattered, a new revolution was started in February, 1821, by Don Augustin Iturbide, a native Mexican, whom the Spanish viceroy had placed at the head of the army. Supplied with ample funds, which he had secured by seizing the military chest, the revolutionary movement quickly succeeded and Mexico became independent by treaty with Spain, signed at Cordova, Mexico, August 24 of the same year. On May 19, 1822, the regency of thirty-six leading citizens proclaimed Iturbide emperor, with the title of Augustin I.

The coinage of this brief empire continued the Spanish system. The types of Augustin's coins bear on the obverse his portrait and the title AUGUSINUS DEI PROVIDENTIA, and on reverse the arms of the new empire. In March of 1823 Iturbide renounced the Imperial Crown and was allowed to quit the country. Immediately a provisional government was formed, at the head of which were Generals Guadalupe Victoria, Bravo, and Negrete, an arrangement that continued until in October of 1824. The coinage of this provisional government was the forerunner of the coinage of the later Republic in respect to

both types and standard. The eagle on the coins of that year, 1824, is standing to left and the wings are upraised in his struggle with the serpent which he is grasping in beak and claw; above is the legend REPUBLICA MEXICANA.

The fineness of the new republican coins is indicated in the inscription on the reverse, the 10 D(ineros) 20 G(ranos) of fine silver to the mark being equivalent to 903 thousandths fine. The standard was continued by the Republic, as was also the type of the reverse, that of a liberty cap in a glory.

On the coins of the Federal Republic, which was established by the adoption of the constitution in October, 1824, the eagle stands upon the nopal plant with his wings displayed and the head turned to right, the type of eagle which remained practically unaltered on the coins of Mexico. The only change made in the reverse was to transfer the word LIBERTATD, which was in script on the crown of the Phrygian cap, to the band, where it appears in capitals.

The series of Mexican republican coins was interrupted from 1864 to 1867, during the occupation of the country by French troops and the brief reign of Ferdinand Maximilian as Emperor of a projected Empire of Mexico. Four of the mints—those at Mexico City, Guanaxuato, San Luis Potosi, and Zacatecas—were active during the empire. The Government of Maximilian introduced the decimal system in the coinage. The coins issued were a 20 Pesos piece in gold, the silver Peso of 100 Centavos, its half of 50 Centavos, two Decimos, and half Decimo. The arms of the empire included the Mexican eagle, and on the gold piece and the silver Peso the shield bearing the arms appears within the chain of the order of the Mexican eagle, an order instituted by the Emperor.

Soon after the restoration of the authority of the Republic throughout its territories a new coinage was issued with the eloquent reverse type of a liberty cap in a glory above the scroll of the constitution and a sword, crossed, over which are suspended the scales of Justice. This type, however, was soon discontinued and the earlier types of the Republic restored.

In addition to the national coinage, the various states of the Republic issued intermittently autonomous coins in copper, in order to supply a local need of coins of small denominations. These coins were, as a rule, the Cuartilla, the Octavo, and the Medio Octavo; and in most cases they were of very crude fabric. In 1838 Cuartillas of excellent workmanship were issued by some of the States, but the promising advance was not maintained; and finally, in the reign of Maximilian, the autonomous State coinages came to an end.

In 1881 a coinage of nickel in the denominations of 5, 2, and 1 Centavo pieces was instituted, but in view of the popular aversion to this metal the coinage of it was discontinued in 1886, but was resumed in 1904, so that the coinage of Mexico remains in the four metals—gold, silver, nickel, and bronze.

The first mint in America was started in Mexico City in 1535, and Mexico has had as many as twelve mints in operation. The official name, REPUBLICA MEXICANA, has been changed to ESTADOS UNIDOS MEXICANOS, which appeared for the first time on the coins of 1905.

During the recent revolution from 1913 to 1917 there were several issues of

coins by the Revolutionist leaders. This coinage has been fully described in the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY for November, 1917, and it is only deemed necessary to refer to it here.

The national coat of arms appears on most of the coins of Mexico, and may be described as follow: In an open wreath of oak and laurel branches, an eagle with wings displayed, the head turned to right, a serpent grasped in beak and right claw, perched with the left foot upon a nopal cactus growing upon a rock which emerges from water.

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society Banquet

The Pacific Coast Numismatic Society celebrated its fourth anniversary by a banquet given at the Hotel Plaza, San Francisco, June 24, 1919, at 8 p. m.

At the preceding meeting the members voted unanimously that the banquet take the place of the regular June meeting.

Members present: Messrs. Brandon, Beardslee, Gill, Goldsmith, Healy, Haagensen, Haigh, Hill, Hitchcock, Landecker, Reimers, Rouleau, Turrill, Zerbe and Steinman.

Guests present: Dr. Hyde, Edwon Seebohm and W. Healy, Jr.

Preceding the banquet a flashlight picture of the banquet group was made by our official photographer, Messrs. R. J. Waters & Co. Messrs. Haagensen, Haigh and Hyde arrived too late to be included in the picture.

Letters and telegrams expressing regrets at their inability to attend were read by the Secretary from Hon. Julius Kahn, M. C.; Hon. T. W. H. Shanahan, Supt. U. S. Mint San Francisco; Moritz Wormser, Dr. S. C. Rodgers, H. H. Yawger, Louis G. Amberg, B. Max Mehl, H. B. Phillips and A. L. Charlot.

Following the banquet a silent toast to the Society's departed President, Fred T. Huddart, was meditated.

The talk-feast of the evening was introduced with appropriate remarks by President Zerbe, at the conclusion of which he called upon Mr. Turrill to preside as Chairman. The selection of Mr. Turrill proved a happy one, his quips in calling for responses were good-naturedly received and generally replied to. The principal speakers were:

Mr. Zerbe, "What Is Money?"

Mr. Beardslee, "Systematizing and Cross Indexing for the Use of Collectors."

Mr. Thomas, "Why I Am a Coin Collector."

Mr. Brandon, "General Collecting a Lead to Specializing."

Mr. Turrill, "Money of the Pacific Coast Aborigines."

Mr. Seebohm, "A Philatelist's Interest in Numismatics."

Other members made brief responses to call.

Mr. Turrill illustrated his most interesting talk by exhibits of woodpecker's scalp, Obsidian and other specimens used as money in trade with the Klamath Indians within the past century.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 p. m. with a vote of thanks to the Banquet Committee and Mr. Carl Sword, manager of the Hotel Plaza, for a memorable and enjoyable anniversary celebration.

I. LELAND STEINMAN, Secretary.

ANNIVERSARY BANQUET OF THE PACIFIC COAST NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Reading from front, left to right: H. L. Hill, W. H. Thomas, Edwin Seebohm, W. F. Healy, W. F. Healy, Jr., J. L. Hitchcock, O. G. Beardslee, I. Leland Steinman, Farran Zerbe, C. B. Turrill, John A. Gill, A, Reimers, Basil Brandon, Hugo Goldsmith, H. Landecker and O. A. Rouleau.

—Photo by R. J. Waters & Co.

THE QUESTION BOX

The Centennial "Dollar" The Trial of the Pyx, &c.

Editor Mehl's Numismatic Monthly:

I am a new subscriber and a young collector, and feel kind of shy about asking you questions, but you invite them and I shall never learn much unless I ask some, so here goes.

In your August issue there are several things I would like a little light thrown on. Perhaps you will help me.

On page 92, you give an illustration of an "Independence Day Medal." I should like to obtain one of these, but it says: "The subscription for this medal is limited to the members of the American Numismatic Society and to the membership of the Mayor's Committee on National Defence."

Is not this kind of hard on outsiders, especially young collectors? I like the design of this medal first rate. As a good American I should like to possess one. Why am I not allowed to buy one? I do not ask the A. N. S. to give me one, I am willing to pay for it, but because I am not a member I am not allowed to purchase one. Why should this "dog in the manger" policy be followed? Is it in the best interests of the Society or of numismatics, which I presume it aims to serve?

On another page of your August issue you give some notes on "Trials of the Pyx." I would like to know something more: What is the meaning of this term?

Another question: In the same issue "Uncle George" mentions the Fugio cent. There are quite a lot of the early issues of the different States that I would like to obtain, especially the less costly ones. It would be a help if you offered a list of such at fixed prices in an early issue; it would save me writing letters to know the cost.

Still another question: Is the 1876 Centennial dollar really a dollar, struck and issued as such by our Government?

If you will kindly answer these questions you will greatly oblige.

Yours truly, E. WHITE.

Independence Day Medal

Membership in the American Numismatic Society carries with it certain privileges, one of which is that of buying commemoratice medals struck for and issued by the Society. It is not our duty to dictate its policy in this respect. In a national commemorative medal it might perhaps be as well to remove any restriction on its sale to non-members, but this must be left to the Society to decide.

Trial of the Pyx

Pyx—this is a casket or box to contain any precious object. We quote the following from an English paper (London Times):

"The Trial of the Pyx is a testing by a jury of Freemen of the Goldsmith's

Company of London, of the accuracy both in weight and fineness of the coins manufactured at the Royal Mint in London and the Branch Mints of the British Overseas Dominions.

"By an Order in Council, dated 1901, it is ordered that the coins to be set apart for the trial of the Pyx shall consist, in the case of gold coins, of one from every two thousand pieces ready for issue. By an earlier order the number of silver coins to be so tried was fixed at one from each sixty pounds troy weight of silver coins.

"The coins are first weighed, and then melted into an ingot, such ingot being assayed by the jury and compared with the standard trial plate so as to ascertain whether the metal is of the proper fineness. The verdict is published in the London Gazette. No adverse verdict has ever been rendered against the Mint officials for over 290 years."

Fugio and Other Early U. S. Coins

We will bear your suggestion in mind, and may act on it in the near future. But give us time—we have only a limited space at our command and may not have the time to spare this month.

The 1876 Centennial "Dollar"

The Report of the U. S. Mint records only the issue of Trade dollars in 1876. The coinage of the regular standard dollar was discontinued by the Act of February 12, 1873. Its coinage was re-authorized by the Act of February 28, 1878. There was an interval of five years and sixteen days during which the only silver dollars struck in the U. S. mints were Trade dollars.

The only silver dollar struck in 1876 was the Trade dollar, and it received a knockout blow in that year. By a resolution of July 22, Congress provided that "the trade dollar should not thereafter be a legal tender, and the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to limit from time to time the coinage thereof to such an amount as he might deem necessary to meet the export demand."

In the Catalogue of Coins, Tokens and medals in the Numismatic Collection of the Mint of the U. S. at Philadelphia, Pa., 1913 issue by the Treasury Department, under captian "Historical Medals," page 376, lot 269-270, these pieces are described. Their issue was authorized by Congress, but only as "Memorial Medals."

The word "dollar" as applied to the Centennial silver medal is only used in a colloquial sense. It is not seriously meant that it is a regular standard dollar; it is not and never has been a legal tender for that amount.

Issues in Gold of the Hudson Bay Company

"Did the Hudson Bay Company of Canada ever issue any gold necessity pieces or slugs?"

The gold pieces that it is claimed were issued by the Hudson Bay Company are considered by the most prominent and well informed Montreal collectors to be of recent fabrication, and the work of an interested speculator to whom Canadians and others are indebted(?) for a number of unpublished coins and tokens.

We are informed that there are no specimens of this issue in the unrivalled collection of Canadian coins and tokens of Mr. W. W. C. Wilson of Montreal.

Coins of Portuguese India

Numismatic Notes on Eastern Coins, by William Barret, 1584

The Coins of Balsara and Goa

William Barret was an English merchant, and his business took him into strange and distant lands. A journey to Syria was in 1584 a very different thing to what it is today. He was, as all early merchants were, a keen observer and has left us a very interesting account of the different money he found in use in the cities and districts he visited. His notes will be found in Hakluyt's "Voyages, Traffiques and Dissoveries of the English Nation' '(3rd volume).

Of the money of the city of Balsara he writes as follows:

"The currant money of Balsara is as followeth. There is a sort of flusses of copper called Estivi, whereof twelve make a mamedine, which is the value of one medine Aleppine. The said mamedine is of silver, having the Moresco stampe on both sides, and two of these make a danine, which is two medines Aleppine.

"The said danine is of silver, having the Turkesco stampe on both sides, and two and a halfe of these make a Saie, which is in value as the Saie of Aleppo. The said Saie is of the similitude and stampe of Aleppo, being (as appeares) sixty estives. Also one Say and twenty estives make a larine, which is of Aleppo money six medines and a halfe.

"The said larine is a strange piece of money, not being round as all other currant mone yin Christianitie, but is a small rod of silver of the greatnesse of the pen of a goose feather, wherewith we use to write, and in length about one eight part thereof, which is wrested, so that the two ends meet at the just halfe part, and in the head thereof is a stampe Turkesco, and these be the best currant money in all the Indias, and six of these larines make a duckat, which is forty medines or eight Saies of Aleppo."

Barret gives quite a long account of the money he found in Goa, but it is too long to quote here. The whole volume is well worth reading and will be found in "Everyman's Library." Of the coins of Goa, he writes in part:

"For the money of Goa, there is a kind of money made of lead and tin mingled, being thicke and round, and stamped on the one side with the spheare or globe of the world, and on the other side two arrowes and five rounds; and this kind of money is called Basaruchi, and fifteen of these make a vinton of naughty money, and five vintons make a tanga, and four vintons make a tanga of base money; so that the tanga of base money is sixty basaruchies, and the tanga of good money seventy-five basaruchies, and five tangas make a seraphine of gold. * * * * There is also another little sort of money, round, having on the one side a crosse, and on the other side a crowne, which is worth one halfe a tanga of good money, and another of the same stampe

lesse than that which they call Imitivo de buona moneda, which is worth eighteen basaruches three-fourth parts a piece."

The catalogue of the Grogan collection, sold in Amsterdam, 1914, contains many rare Goa pieces. It is interesting to compare the coins described by Barret with those illustrated in the splendid plates—several of them can be identified and are classed there as extremely rare. The curious may follow up this series at their leisure.

The Secret Service Guardian Angels

CONFEDERATE PAPER MONEY AND BROKEN BANK NOTES BEING CONFISCATED

It was an old English Bishop reproving a boy in his service who said: "Remember, my boy, there is One we can never deceive—One whose eyes see our every deed, however secret we imagine it—who hears every word we utter—who knows our very thoughts. You know Who I mean." And the boy replied: "Yes, my Lord—the missus."

In this country the Secret Service are the guardians of public morals, the war being now ended. The enemies of our country who have been under watch or restraint for the last two years have been deported. All is calm in the political and industrial world. The profiteers have been whipped into line—food, fuel, clothing and all other commodities are again at their normal pre-war level. From ocean to ocean all is dry; consequently there is an end to all crime and graft.

The Secret Service, having nothing else to do, have turned their eyes and attention to the paper money stocks of dealers, and collections in the hands of private parties. All is fish that comes into their nets—Confederate notes and old broken bank bills all are under the ban. They claim that the possession of these notes by private parties is unlawful—that they are liable to confiscation wherever found. Their contention is absurd, it will not hold water in court, but it means a lot of annoyance and expense to those whose stock or collection may be seized. If there is any possible danger either to the State or the general public in the possession by collectors of these series, the selling and possession of same might be put under license and regulated instead of being considered and treated as a crime. Meanwhile, collectors are advised to keep cool. There is no need to be alarmed. One correspondent informs us that he has hidden his collection away amid the pages of his old family Bible. He says that the Secret Service men will never dream of looking into the Good Book for bad money. We give him credit for the bright idea—and for the possession of such a book.

Numismatic News of the Month

FREE TRANSVAAL GOLD

A free market for gold produced by mining companies in the Transvaal is re-established by an agreement signed July 24 by the Bank of England and representatives of South African gold mining companies. The action removes restrictions on gold export that prevailed during the war. The agreement, it is understood, has the sanction of the Imperial South African Government.

It is possible now for gold to be purchased in England through the usual channels for shipment abroad. An experimental sale of 50,000 ounces of gold for shipment to America was made by Transvaal companies at 85s. 6d. for a standard ounce. Until now the price has been 77s. 9d. an ounce.

—American Banker.

NEW VICTORY MEDAL

PARIS, July 7.—Soldiers and saialors of the allied nations who have seen at least three months' fighting service are eligible for the Victory medal which the French government proposes to institute.

Henry Morgenthau, former United States Ambassador to Turkey, has been made a commander of the Legion of Honor in Paris. The award was made for "eminent services rendered France in looking after French interests while American Ambassador at Constantinople."

AS TO PRICES OF SILVER

There is considerable quiet interest in congressional and business circles as to the future price of silver. Western interests are favoring additional legislation which will raise the limit below which the prices of silver may not go. Director of the Mint Baker has just returned from an extended visit through the West. He finds this sentiment growing. As a rule it does not find favor in administration circles, but Director Baker himself is non-committal on the subject.

SPANISH WAR MEDALS

Persons entitled to Spanish war service medals may obtain them on application to the adjutant-general of the army, Washington, D. C., according to information received by Harry B. Smith, adjutant-general of Indiana.

Those eligible to receive the medal are persons who were members of the regular army, volunteer army or national guard and served not less than ninety days, under orders from the President, between April 20, 1908, and December 10, 1898, and who are not eligible to receive the Spanish campaign badge.

Families of persons who were entitled to the medal, but who now are dead, may make application and receive the medal.

GOLD COIN FOR MEXICO

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.— Gold coin to the amount of $100,000 was withdrawn from the Sub-Treasury here today for shipment to Mexico.

FRENCH EXCHANGE DROPS

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—The American dollar was worth approximately 7¾ French francs on the foreign exchange market today, when a violent break in rates on Paris forced French money to a new low record. Cables were quoted at 7.67, and demand bills at 7.69. Before the war the dollar was only worth 5 1-5 to 5 1-4 francs.

Exporters of foodstuffs and raw materials were said by dealers to be mainly responsible for the new decline through heavy offerings of bills. The quotations represent a discount of more than 30 per cent from pre-war rates.

CANADIAN COINS AT A DISCOUNT IN BUFFALO

BUFFALO, Aug. 4.—Canadian silver coins were worth 8 cents less than a dollar as a circulating medium in Buffalo today. Notices were posted in banks and business houses fixing a discount of 1 cent on a dime, 2 cents on a quarter and 4 cents on a half dollar.

Canadian coins have passed at par here for years, but, bankers explained, because of the widening discount due to post-war conditions other border cities were making Buffalo a dumping ground for Canadian money of all denominations.

38,931,000 PENNIES COINED IN MONTH

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 1.—The abnormal demand for pennies is still taxing the capacity of the presses in the Philadelphia mint, the enormous total of 38,931,000 having been struck during July. The other coinage consisted of 950,000 dimes and 9,306,000 nickels.

CUMBERSOME MONEY

One of the largest and most cumbersome forms of money is found in Central Africa, where the natives use a cruciform ingot of copper ore more than ten inches long.

The Canadian dollar will buy only 90 cents worth in Buffalo and 30 cents worth in Toledo, a Dominion paper laments. At that, it has it all over the American dollar.

U. S. TO ISSUE $100 TREASURY CERTIFICATES

Treasury savings certificates in denominations of $100 will be available within a few days at postoffices of the first and second class throughout New York State and the twelve northern counties of New Jersey, according to announcement by the war savings committee. This month they can be obtained for $83.80 each.

The $1.00 0treasury savings certificates, the postoffice order reads, will not be sold at postoffices, but through the Federal Reserve Bank and bank and trust companies that are agents for the sale of War Savings Stamps. The $100 treasury savings Certificate can be obtained through the exchange of War Savings Stamps, it is announced. Those wishing to do this must affix twenty stamps, series of 1919, to a war savings certificate and offer this at a postoffice.

OREGON VETERANS WILL GET MEDALS

SALEM, Ore., July 18.—A sub-committee to be composed of two Oregon representatives of the American Federation of Arts, one representative of the art museum of Portland, one representative of the Portland chapter of the American Institute of Architects and one member at large are to be appointed to design an appropriate medal to be presented to all Oregon soldiers, sailors and marines entering the service during the war with Germany. It is planned that the medals be delivered on November 11, the first anniversary of the signing of the armistice, attended by appropriate celebrations in all counties of the State. This was the agreement reached yesterday at a meeting of the special medal board, provided for by the 1919 legislature. This board is composed of the governor, the secretary of state, the state treasurer, the adjutant general and the state librarian.

The medals are to be of bronze and will be significant of the State of Oregon. The legislature appropriated $8.000 to pay for the medals.

Rochester Numismatic Association

The 174th meeting of the Rochester Numismatic Association was held at the Rochester Municipal Museum, August 5, 1919, with President Handler presiding.

Members present: Messrs. Bauer, W. H. Amberg, Borradaile, Handler, Yawger, L. G. Amberg, Plumb, Putnam, Merritt, Wolfe, Clarke, Raymond, Loizeau, Gillette, Stanley, Haringx, French, and Simond.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Motion made by Mr. Gillette and seconded by Mr. Bauer, that on account of the annual Exposition to be held at Exposition Park, September 1 to 6, our meeting nights for September will be on the 9th and 16th. Carried.

Mr. Fred Merritt gave us a surprise by appearing at the meeting, and it certainly seemed good and like old times to have him around again. He gave us a part outline of the arrangements being made for the A. N. A. Convention.

Mr. Wolfe exhibited part of his collection of dollars, half dollars and Colonial coins.

Meeting adjourned to September 9th.

H. H. YAWGER, Acting Secretary.

The New York Numismatic Club

A regular meeting of the Club was held Friday evening, August 8th, President A. R. Frey presiding.

The following members were present: Messrs. Belden, Beesley, Beatty, Blake, Boyd, Butler, Frey, Newell, Proskey, Swanson, Smith, Valentine, Von Lieben, Wormser and Wood.

Minutes of last meeting read and approved.

Subject for the evening: "Your Three Colonial Coins of North America."

Exhibited by Mr. D. Proskey: Pine Tree Shilling (large planchet). New

York Cent 1787, figure facing the left. Mott token 1789, double thick, one of the early impressions, break in die not showing.

Mr. Blake exhibited a 10 Centavo Note of Philippine National Bank.

Exhibit of Mr. Elliot Smith, a proof impression of the Continental Dollar in pewter; currency spelled with one R.

Mr. Smith, of the Executive Committee, reported that the Secretary had sold 20 Bronze and 5 Silver of the King of Italy Medal; also stated that the Club had presented to Mr. J. M. Swanson a copy of the medal in silver and to Mr. J. Sanford Saltus a set of Uniface Medals in silver of the obverse and reverse of the above medal.

The topic for the September meeting will be "Coins, Medals and Tokens of Chili."

Meeting adjourned at 10:45.

F. C. C. BOYD, Secretary.

Transvaal To Have Mint

Popularity of British Sovereign Favors Movement to Coin South African Gold

"It now seems fairly assured," says Samuel Montagu & Co., of London, "that a government mint will be set up in the Transvaal, probably at Johannesburg. In this event, the Dominion of South Africa will follow the example of Australia, Canada and India, in creating a local mint. The British sovereign has enjoyed universal popularity. It has commanded, and does still command, a premium in certain places over gold, coined or otherwise. If the whole of the output from the Transvaal be minted (instead of only a part, as heretofore) the British sovereign is likely to be still more conspicuous throughout the world, although a shortage of gold bullion, consequent upon such an increased mintage, would probably impel a considerable quantity of the new coin into the melting pot, after a brief and barren lease of life."

—Wall Street Journal.

Stabilizing Money

Comment on Prof. Fisher's Plan, by the Saturday Evening Post.

Prof. Irving Fisher of Yale is the present champion of a plan for rectifying our unstable dollar. The method he proposes is approved by many noted Americans and is worthy of careful attention. The proposal is that instead of having a dollar of fixed weight, and therefore variable in purchasing power, we substitute a dollar fixed in purchaisng power and variable in weight. To do this we would abolish gold coins altogether. Bar gold would lie in the government vaults, and in actual circulation this bullion would be represented by yellowbacks. It would thus be possible to vary at will the weight of the gold dollar without having to endure the annoyance of handlnig gold eagles of various weights. The Government would simply add or subtract a certain number of grains of gold—or a fraction of a grain—to or from the dollar, just fast enough to compensate for any loss or gain in the purchasing power of the dollar.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Monthly Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

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Vol. X. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, OCTOBER, 1919 No. 10

With The Editor

Newfoundland Government Cash Notes

The Newfoundland Government Cash Notes for twenty-five cents are well worth the money if size of note has anything to do with value. We recently received one from a Canadian subscriber, and it is the largest note of this value that we have seen for some time. It is seven and one-quarter inches long, and three and one-half inches wide It is stated—on the note—that they were issued under "Act 10. Edward VII, Cap 1." They bear the double date 1913-14. The figures denoting value—"25," occupy prominent positions appearing six times. The word "CENTS," and the abbrevation "CTS." appear four times on the Obverse which is adorned with a river scene with a background of fir trees within an oval. The back of note is in sepia and blue colors with the value—"25 CTS."

The unusual size for a note of this small value, and the repetition of the figures "25" might induce some to accept it as a Twenty-five dollar bill.

How The Other Half Lives And Collects

It is often said that one-half of the world does not know how the other half lives. It is equally true that one-half of the coin collectors do not know how, or what the other half is interested in and collects. It is right here that the value and advantage to collectors, of local numismatic societies comes in. The regular meetings bring collectors into touch with each other, and their interest in their hobby is thus greatly increased. The collector who is blessed with friends whose tastes are similar to his own is generally a much better collector than the one who works and collects simply on his own initiative. The secret drinker is the very worst kind of a drinker, and he who collects by himself is generally a poor collector—he becomes a mere accumulator.

If there is a local numismatic society in your town—become a member of it. If there is none—get to work and organize one. You will find it the best thing you ever started, and once properly started, the society will grow. Birds of a feather flock together. This is as true of collectors as of any other sort of birds.

Register All Valuable Letters Mailed

A correspondent complains of the habit some collectors have of sending valuable coins through the mails in unregistered letters. He recently received a letter this way which contained a gold coin of considerable value. He feels called upon to enter a protest against this growing habit.

No coin of value should be sent through the mail unregistered. Those who send them this way pay a tribute and compliment to the Post Office employees that is well deserved. At the same time it is not fair to the one the coin is sent to. Now and again, letters go astray and fail to reach the addressee. He is entitled to the protection furnished by registration, and common fairness demands that all letters containing valuable coins, sent by one collector to another should be sent by registered mail.

The Philadelphia Convention

The Convention this year promises to be a success. If the Philadelphia members have their wish it is bound to be one. While there is the question whether an earlier date might not have made it more convenient for some members at a distance to attend, there is no doubt but that the local members will do everything possible to make it a pleasant and profitable Convention for all those who are able to gather there. The local committee want the visiting members to have the time of their lives—and the visiting members equally desire this also. Thus, agreed on the main point, the Convention should be a huge success.

The Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

Our regret at not being able to attend the Anniversary Banquet of the wide-awake Pacific Numismatic Society increased as we read the menu of the talk fest provided for—and by those present The program of topics could not well be improved upon, and those present are to be congratulated on their good fortune in being there on such an occasion A summary of the various speeches would be interesting to all collectors, and would be an admirable feature in their 1919 Year Book—if the Society should issue one.

Our Motto

We have recently received a number of appreciative letters. The writers say many nice things about the recent issues of **Our Monthly.** Some write in favor of one feature—some of another—but all find something to parise. We are only human—and therefore pleased to receive such letters, and to know that our friends are pleased with our efforts to give them a good, live coin monthly. One very satisfactory feature is the number of new subscriptions we receive every week. Three hundred extra copies were printed for the September issue. This proves that we are recommended by our friends, and we shall try hard to justify their kindness in mentioning the Monthly to their collecting friends. Our aim is to make it indispensable to every wide-awake collector.

Earlier Conventions

An old A. N. A. member—one who has attended quite a few Conventions in the past, writing to us says: "If a vote is taken at Philadelphia in October on the question where the Convention of 1920 shall be held—why should there not be a vote taken as to the most convenient time. One question is certainly as important as the other. If those desiring the Convention cannot suggest an early date, no invitation should be extended. I know of several who, like myself, find it quite impossible to be away from their business for four days during the first and second weeks of October. Let the Convention take a vote on the date, as well as on the place of meeting."

The suggestion that the Convention take a vote on the date of meeting is a good one But the vote should not be restricted to those present at Philadelphia—and the proxy vote should not be used. Those who find it impossible to attend an October Convention would not be present to vote. Those who favor a late date will be there in full strength. A vote on this question—to have any value, should be open to the entire membership. At the time of writing it seems impossible for us to attend for several reasons. We regret this—we enjoy the Conventions, the good fellowship and old and new friends we find in them. By all means let us have an earlier Convention next year.

Increased Membership For 1919

With very little effort and some expense—not large—the membership of the A. N. A. would be increased fully one hundred per cent. within a single year! This would not only increase the prestige of the A. N. A., but wonderfully help the cause of Numismatics. This increase cannot be made without the aid of every individual member. The work must not be left to a few. Now is the time to work. There are still three months left us of 1919. Let us have a greatly increased membership list for 1920.

Prof. Fisher's Plan For Stabilizing The Dollar

In the last issue of your Numismatic Monthly I noticed some reference to Prof. Fisher's plan to stabilize the dollar. To say this plan is fallacious is to speak very kindly of it. Apparently, the Proffessor hopes to stabilize the prices of almost numberless commodities by unstabilizing one, for gold is a commodity the same as any other metal. It appears necessary to the orderly conduct of production and trade that measure of weight, length, bulk and value be established by law. Everyone knows what a pound, yard, and bushel is, but are not so familiar with the measure of values. **Gold measures values.** Practically all nations of the world have agreed in setting an arbitrary value or an ounce of gold, and that arbitrary value measures all values the same as an arbitrary pound measures all weights from a lump of sugar to the largest aggregations of matter in the universal. Gold is made a measurer of values by the simple expedient of giving that metal an estimated value, and keeping it at that value by undertaking to accept, and pay for at that price any surplus production over the amount needed in the arts or for any other purpose, and also undertaking to relinquish at any time any needed amount in

exchange for their own authorized issue of paper money. That such an arrangement will keep the value constant is easily understood.

If Government price protection was withdrawn and miners had to find their own market; on account of its limited utility for anything except personal adornment the price would probably be reduced one-half and continually fluctuate according to production as the prices of all other commodities do.

Professor Fisher seems to believe that if the value of gold was reduced as the prices of other commodities increased on account of the scarcity of such things in Europe—and that is undoubtedly why prices have advanced in America—that a paper dollar would pay for a greater amount of other goods consequent on the fact that the holder would command more gold with the same paper dollar; but his conclusion is unsound for the reason that a paper dollar is an entity, an actual thing that necessity has caused man to create for the purpose of measuring the values of his incessant activity, and that is represented by a small amount of gold for no other reason than convenience. It is generally assumed that twenty-five grains of gold sets a value of a paper dollar, but if a dollar is an entity then the belief that gold sets the value on a dollar is wrong, and the paper dollar of one hundred copper cents actually sets the exchangeable value on the gold dollar, and through the gold dollar, on all other products of industry.

The Professor's proposition is to make gold cheaper by Act of Congress in hopes that if the price of one commodity (gold) was artificially reduced that all others would be correspondingly reduced. The paper dollar, supposedly retaining its usual value and being able to command twice as much gold as it could before the law was passed, ought to be able to command twice as many other goods. This plan would not work, law might establish the value of one commodity (gold) in paper dollars, but necessity establishes all other values, and necessity knows no law. Besides, if the value of the gold that represents the value of a paper dollar is cut in half, the dollar becomes only half as valuable. There might be some wisdom in increasing the price of gold to correspond with the increased price of other commodities, which would mean fewer grains to the dollar, but none whatever in reducing it.

Nothing whatever can be gained, but a great deal may be lost by tinkering with the value of gold. The world-war lasted for five years—the effects will be felt for many more. R. P. H.

The American Numismatic Association Convention

The Committee having in charge the arrangements for the convention of the A. N. A. to be held in Philadelphia, October 4 to 8, have completed details for the meeting, which are given below. The sessions of the convention and exhibit of coins will be held in the Academy of the Fine Arts, at the corner of Broad and Cherry Streets. This is the building at which the coin exhibit was held at the convention in Philadelphia in 1908. Headquarters will be at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Broad and Walnut Streets, one of the largest and most handsome hotels in Philadelphia.

Convention Program.

Saturday, October 4.—Registration of members at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. Arrangements of exhibits at the Academy of Fine Arts, southwest

corner Broad and Cherry Streets (four blocks north of the Hotel).

Sunday, October 5.—Leave the Bellevue Stratford Hotel at 10:30 A. M. by automobile to Valley Forge. Dinner about 2 P. M., and return to city about 5 P. M.

Monday, October 6.—10 A. M., first regular meeting of the Association in the Academy of the Fine Arts. 12:30 P. M., meet at the United States Mint, 16th and Spring Garden Streets, to visit cabinet of coins there exhibited, and have official photograph taken.

Tuesday, October 7.—9:30 A. M., session of the A. N. A. 2 P. M., meet at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel to take cars on 15th Street for United States Navy Yard, League Island. Evening, 8 o'clock, informal reception tendered the members and ladies.

Wednesday, October 8.—9:30 A. M., session of the A. N. A. 2 P. M., session of the A. N. A. 3 to 5 P. M., public exhibition of exhibits at the Academy of the Fine Arts. Evening, informal reception tendered the members and ladies.

Thursday, October 9.—9:30 A. M., session of the A. N. A. 2 P. M., closing session of A. N. A.

An Interesting Letter On The Confiscation Of Confederate And Broken Bank Notes

Spokane, Wash., Sept. 5, 1919.

Mr. B. Max Mehl,
Fort Worth, Texas.

Dear Mr. Mehl:

I was very much interested in the article in the September issue on the "Secret Service Guardian Angels." I have had a similar experience in Spokane, although have no fault to find with the method pursued by the local agent as there has always been the closest co-operation between our bank and the local authorities on subjects in which they are interested.

It happened that the display of Confederate and old state bank bills at the Spokane Public Museum came to his attention and I was courteously informed of the Treasury Department regulation. Believing that a museum would be entitled to carry such an exhibit for educational purposes I suggested that we make a test case and the subject was accordingly referred to Washington. A reply was received to the effect that we should be permitted to keep our exhibits with the restriction that they be kept under lock and key in order to keep them from getting into general circulation through theft.

All confederate bills and state bank bills coming to my attention since that time have been reported to the local agent and who has been confiscating such items. It might be well for the Numismatic Monthly to take up the subject with the Treasury Department, and perhaps if enough pressure is brought to bear existing regulations may be lightened to some extent.

With reference to the words in your second paragraph reading "the war being now ended," may I call your attention to the fact that there are two branches of the secret service in the United States. One of them is under the direction of the Treasury Department and the other under the Department of Justice. It is the secret service of the latter department which was

extremely active during the war in so far as enemy actions were concerned, and while the secret service of the Treasury Department co-operated with the Department of Justice in cases of common interest, the Treasury secret service is concerned chiefly with protecting our currency and coinage and has nothing to do with espionage cases. Yours truly,

J. H. TATSCH.

The Anniversary Banquet Of The Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

(See September Monthly, pp. 108.)

We are sixteen—the diners sang,
As down to eat they sat,
And if we're called a merry bunch
We'll let it go at that
We're something more than merry men
We're coin collectors true—
Each one is worth of his place
In the Numismatic crew.

We are sixteen—the diners sang,
As they prepared to eat.
And as a Numismatic bunch
We sure are hard to beat.
And each of us an expert is
In his own particular line,
A few of us are really "choice"
And the balance—"exceedingly fine."

We are nineteen—the diners sang,
But three of us came too late.
And so their faces do not appear
On the Messrs. Water's plate.
We're nineteen here—but sixteen there,
They'll come early another night,
For the San Francisco banquets are
Extremely pleasant and bright.

We are nineteen—the diners sang,
And we've brought our razor and knife,
You can see them hanging on the wall
But we've none of us brought our wife.
Our wives are better by far at home
Cleaning our coins of Greece and Rome,
(But they should do as they do in the East
And take their wives to the merry feast.)

THE QUESTION BOX

Removing The Crust From An Ancient Coin

J. H. Y.—California, asks: "Can you tell me the best way to clean the "crust" of corrosion off an ancient coin?"

A very important point to remember is this—badly rubbed and poor specimens of ancient coins are worth next to nothing, this statement applies to all ancient silver or brass coins not exceptionally rare. Cav. Francesco Gnecchi, in his "Elementary Manual of Roman Coins," writes on this subject as follows: "Silver coins must be treated with great care. If one has to deal with the original earth of the deposit, or with the dirt accumulated during the course of years, washing with soap and water will be found sufficient. If, on the other hand one has to deal with oxidation (and sometimes silver coins are covered with a green oxide produced either by copper coins which were mingled with them or else by the vessel in which the coins were buried), it will be best to place them in a solution of acid and leave them there some time. When the simple bath of solution proves insufficient, add to it a small piece of zinc, taking care that the zinc does not come into contact with the coins. The oxidation very rarely resists this treatment which, however, must sometimes be continued for several days. Instead of the acid bath which may be obtained with the natural juice of a lemon or a solution of oxalic or of citric acid, one may also very successfully use a solution of carbonate of potash. But the business of cleaning coins becomes very much more difficult when one takes the brass coins in hand. All acids are at once to be absolutely excluded, because they corrode the metal.

For removing earth and dirt generally a bath in soap and water will be found sufficient as for silver, but when one has to deal with oxidation there is no chemical preparation which will remove it without also acting on the metal, hence it is necessary to resort to mechanical cleaning. If the oxidation is slight and not very hard it may be removed by rubbing with a pointed piece of hard wood, but if it is hard and resists that treatment a metal tool must be employed but then the greatest caution will be necessary so as to run no risk of scratching and spoiling the coin, and one should be all the more on one's guard if underneath the oxidation there is a patina which ought to be preserved intact, as that is one of the greatest ornaments of bronze coins. The operation is always most delicate and if the hand of the operator is not very skilful it is sure to be dangerous, so much so that very often, if not always, it is advisable to let the coins alone, tolerating a little oxidation which is in fact only the natural consequence of the ages past, and of the material in which the coin has rested for so long a period."

Or, the following may be tried—we have tried it with success. Get a piece of aluminum, three inches square by about one-eighth thick—the size is not important but is about right. Clean it by rubbing with fine emery cloth or something of that kind so there is no coating of any kind on it. Put it in a shallow earthenware dish, an ordinary deep large saucer will do. Make a

strong solution of ordinary washing soda by boiling or dissolving in boiling water, fill saucer with it. Now place coins in solution so that they lay partly on the aluminum plate, or partly on another coin that does lay on plate, this may be continued so long as coins continue contact, and are completely covered by the solution.

There must be no grease come in contact with solution, plate, or container, so it would be best to wash the coins well before placing in this bath. The above treatment applies only to silver, or potin (base silver) coins. For bronze coins we have tried the following with success. Mix one teaspoonful of salt in a half cup of vinegar. Place the coins in this, leave overnight or even longer according to the state of coin. As the solution becomes dirty, renew it. This is slow but sure work. If there is only a lump of crust, on coin, place it in an empty saucer and apply some muriatic acid to the spot, watching the result. The acid must be kept in a bottle with a glass stopped—not a cork, the acid will eat that away. Avoid touching the acid wtih hand. It is dangerous. If the coin is so covered that this treatment is too slow, try more heroic measures. Take half an ounce of Cynide of Potassium, add this to an half ounce of water. Put a portion of this in a cup or basin and place the coin in solution letting it remain only a minute or so—not longer, or there will be little left of the coin. **This solution is dangerous—avoid getting any on the fingers or hand.** Dry the coin in sawdust or sand, clean off with oil and examine results.

Try your first experiments on your less valuable coins. A coin that is evenly and smoothly covered with a green, red or yellow patina should never be tampered with. An ancient coin may be improved sometimes, but it may be utterly ruined by injudicious attempts to clean it. The writer once cleaned a large bronze of Septimius Severus with the rare "Victoriae Britannicae" reverse, by placing it for hours on top of a red hot coal fire. After cooling, it was well rubbed off with the end grain of a piece of wood. This treatment was repeated several times, and a very decent coin was the result—both legends and type showing up well. When acquired it was impossible to decipher the legend and the type had to be guessed at. This mode of treatment is however not recommended.

The Present Droll Situation In Foreign Exchange

I'VE GOT $100 WITH ME THAT I'LL KEEP IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DURING MY TRAVELS- I'LL HAVE IT CHANGED AS I GO FROM ONE COUNTRY INTO ANOTHER
WILL YOU CHANGE THIS $100 INTO ENGLISH MONEY FOR ME?
THE VALUE OF MONEY IS SO BALLY UN- CERTAIN NOW YOU'LL LOSE TWELVE SHILLINGS BY THE TRANS- ACTION SIR
PLEASE CHANGE THIS ENGLISH MONEY INTO BELGIAN
CERTAINLY- BUT YOU'LL GET FOUR- TEEN LOUIES LESS THAN THE REGULAR PEACE TIME EXCHANGE
I WANT YOU TO GIVE ME ITALIAN MONEY FOR THIS BELGIAN MONEY
SURE- BUT ACCORDING TO OUR MONEY YOU'LL LOSE 3¼ SCUDOS
PLEASE CHANGE THESE SMALL ITALIAN BILLS INTO FRENCH MONEY
I'LL DO IT- BUT ITALIAN MONEY IS WORTH LESS NOW THAN BEFORE THE WAR
I WANT TO CHANGE THIS BACK INTO AMERICAN MONEY
YOU GET NOTHING BACK THERE'S JUST ENOUGH LEFT TO GIVE ME A TIP
HOTEL LA AMERICANE

—As Cartooned by Goldberg in the New York Mail.

The Coinage of Latin America

Central America

This is the second of a series of articles on the Latin American Coinage
Prepared for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY

By M. SORENSEN.

In 1821 Central America became independent of Spain and formed the confederated Republic del Centro de America, composed of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, San Salvador, and Honduras This Republic lasted until 1839, when it was dissolved and the five component countries became entirely autonomous Several attempts to re-establish a union of these countries have proved even less successful than the first, and have left but slight traces upon the coins.

The coins of the Republic of Central America were struck at the old Spanish mint at Guatemala, at Tegucigalpa (mint mark T.), in Honduras; at San Jose (C R), in Costa Rica, and at Leon (NR), in Nicaragua. The Republic retained the Spanish system with the Peso of 8 Reales as the unit. The types, however, were entirely different from those of the royal coins. On obverse they show the sun rising behind a range of five mountains, on reverse a tree and the legend LIBRE CRESCA PECUNDO.

For several years after the dissolution of the Republic of Central America Guatemala continued on her coins the types of the former, but in 1859 the portrait of President Rafael Carrera (1851-1865) was placed on the obverse, and after his death the portrait was still retained withthe inscription, Dundador de la Republica de Guatemala. Until 1870 the Spanish system was retained, but in that year the decimal system was adopted for the coinage and a Peso of 100 Centavos was made the unit. The arms of the Republic displaced the portrait of Carrera on the coins issued on the decimal system, and in 1872 the seated female representing Guatemala appeared.

The unit of coinage in Honduras is the Peso, and since 1871 it has been a Peso on the decimal system of 100 Centavos. The types of the coins are the national arms, the traditional tree, or a standing figure of Liberty. The small

coinage of the country has sometimes been executed at foreign mints, as were the nickel pieces of 1870.

Adaptation of the national coat of arms appears on the coins of Honduras, the essential features of which are a mountain peak surmounted by a Liberty Pole with Phrygian cap in a glory, between two towers on which rest the ends of a rainbow, the whole in a triangular field azure; around, on the broad band, REPUBLICA DE HONDURAS.

Nicaragua declared its independence of Spain in 1823, and joined the Federal Union of Central America, though not until 1854 did Spain recognize the independence of Nicaragua.

The coinage of Nicaragua has never been extensive, the currency of the country generally having been foreign coins and forced circulation of paper money. The monetary unit of the country is a silver Peso of 100 Centavos. Lately an attempt has been made to get the country on a gold basis.

In 1912 Nicaragua added to its scant coinage an issue in silver of 1 Cordoba and its divisions in 50, 25 and 10 centavos in silver, 5 centavos in nickel, and 1 and ½ centavos in bronze.

Nicaragua, Honduras and San Salvador were again united in 1848, but this union lasted only three years and was dissolved in 1851.

The arms of Nicaragua, which are found on some of the coins, are on a shield azure a chain of five mountain peaks, above which the sun rises.

The coinage of Salvador has never beenof an considerable extent. Whatever need there may be of gold or silver is supplied with the coins of foreign countries, especially of France, England, and the United States. The currency of the country is inconvertible paper, which is greatly depreciated The legal monetary unit is the silver Peso The types consist of the arms of the Republic on obverse, and the bust of Columbus, or the value within a wreath on the reverse. The decimal system is now adopted.

In 1892 there was an issue of gold in denominations of 20, 10 and 5 Pesos, and during that same and following year an issue of silver Pesos and its divisions.

The arms Salvador are a volcano with the sun rising behind, nine stars above, two cornucopiae and a pole surmounted by a Phrygian cap in a glory.

From 1832 to 1850 the coins of Costa Rica bear the type, three mountains and tree, of the earlier confederacy, with the exception ofthe Real, which had for obverse type a female bust. In 1850 the national arms appeared on the gold and silver.

The adoption of the decimal system in 1864 was followed in 1885 by the adoption as the standard unit, the silver Peso of 24 grams, 900 thousandths fine, or the equivalent of the 5-franc piece of the Latin Monetary Union.

The new coins on the silver standard had on the obverse the arms of Costa Rica and on the reverse the value between branches of coffee.

In 1896 Costa Rica adopted the gold standard, and for unit the gold Colon of 778 milligrams, 900 thousandths fine. On the new gold coin, first issued in 1897, the bust of Columbus appears as the reverse type.

Of the 5 Central American countries has Costa Rica showed a marked enterprise above the other four. It has issued and held in circulation a larger volume of metal money, and has always been on a more sound financial basis.

As mentioned above was Costa Rica the first one of the five states to adopt the gold standard.

The arms of Costa Rica are three mountains by the sea, behind the first of which rises the sun; a three-masted ship at sea; above three stars; below the shield, laurel and palm branches in saltire; the shield over a trophy of flags and military arms.

The mint of the captain-generalcy of Guatemala, or Central America, was established at Guatemala by Philip V (1701-24-46). The coins of this mint bear the same types as those of the great mints in Mexico and in South America, and are distinguished from the latter by the mint mark G. (Guatemala), and later by N. G. (Nueva Guatemala).

The coinage of gold in Guatemala does not appear to have been very considerable, at least in comparison with the gold coinage of the Spanish mints in North and South America; and the apparently meager production of gold at this mint has of late been actually reduced considerably by the correct attribution ofthe coins bearing the mint mark NR to the mint at Bogota, where the letters refer to Nueva Reino, or New Granada.

The independence of Venezuela dates from April 19, 1810, when the junta which had acted in behalf of Ferdinand VII and against Joseph Mapoleon, then King of Spain, deposed the Spanish captain general and began to govern the country in their own name. From 1819 until 1836 Venezuela was a part of the Republic of Colombia. The autonomous coinage prior to the union with Colombia is limited to a bronze quarter-real, and to some quartinos in bronze struck at Caracas.

The first important coinage law after the breaking up of the Republic of Colombia and the formation of the Republic of Venezuela was enacted in 1857. This law established as unit the gold Venezolano of 100 Centavos, and provided for a series of silver coins consisting of a Peso of 10 Reales, a Medio peso, a Two-real piece; a Real or Decimo, and a Medio real Of this series, the Peso, first struck in 1863, had for obverse type the head of the distinguished citizen (CIUDADANO ESCLARICIDO), Antonio Paez, and on reverse the statement of value The remainder ofthe series has the head of Liberty and the arms of the Republic.

In 1871 the United States of Venezuela adopted a coinage system which approaches closely to that of the Latin Monetary Union, with a gold Venezolano of 1,612 grams, 900 thousandths fine, as the unit.

The types of the new coin have on obverse the head of Bolivar, the Liberator, and on reverse the arms of the Republic.

The arms of Venezuela are party per pale and base, in dexter gules garbe or, in sinister or trophy of two flags, two swords, and a Liberty Pole, on base azure horse courant contournee; crest, two cornucopiae of flowers; motto, 19 ABRIL 1810—LIBERTAD—5 DE JULIO 1811.

From the dissolution of the Republic of Colombia in 1836, until 1856, Ecuador adhered to the old Spanish system of coinage with the Peso of 8 Reales. In 1856 the system of the Latin Union was adopted with the Franco as the unit. But the change proved too radical for a population accustomed to the Peso of

8 Reales and had to be modified in 1871, when a more suitable unit, a Peso of 5 Francs, or 10 Reales, 100 Centavos, was established.

The system now in use was established in 1884, of which the gold coins are the Double Condor, Condor, Doublon, the 1/5 Condor, 1/10 Condor, the last being equivalent to the 5-franc piece of the Latin Union, an dthe silver Sucre, named after Gen. Sucre, a former President, and its subdivisions on the decimal system. The types of the silver are the head of President Sucre and the arms of the Republic. The mint of Ecuador is at Quito.

In 1811 New Granada declared itself independent of Spain and formed a Republic. In 1819 the Republic of Colombia was erected out of what are now Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador This union lasted only until 1836, when Venezuela and Ecuador established independent governments, and the states of Colombia were formed into thte Granadine Confederation, which finally became the United States of Columbia in 1861.

The change in the coins produced by the first poliitcal change just noted was the introduction of the types of the bust of an Indian woman, with the feather crown and the legend **Libertad Americana;** and on the reverse, the pomegranate (Spanish, granada) a type parlant referring to the name of the country. The mints of this Republic were at Bogota and Popayan in Colombia proper, and at Quito in Ecuador. Under the Granadine Confederation or the Republica de la Nueva Granada, the type of American Liberty and the pomegranate were continued for a short time, but they presently gave way to a Caucasian type of Liberty and the consular fasces over the bow and arrow, between two cornucopiae

The coinage of the Republic, both of Colombia and of New Ganada, retained the Spanish system with the Peso of 8 Reales as the unit until 1847, when a decimal system with a Peso of 10 Reales as the unit was adopted. But for popular convenience in the transition from a long used system to a different one, the Granadino, an 8-real piece after the old system, was also coined. Finally, in 1871 the United States of Colombia adopted the monetary system of the Latin Union, with a gold Peso as the unit. The types of the new coinage brought out on this standard were the head of Liberty and the national arms, and embrace also a statement of the weight and fineness of the piece.

The arms of Colombia are a shield divided per fess, on chief azure a pomegranate vert between two cornucopiae, from which pour piasters; on base Isthmus of Darien azure with ship on each side; on fess argent a Phrygian cap gules on a pole; crest, an eagle with wings displayed. Motto: LIBERTAD I ORDEN.

When the Republic of Panama was established in 1904 out of the state of Panama, formerly one of the confederate Colombian states, it issued its first coinage, based on the gold Balboa of 1.672 grams and 900 thousandths fine as the unit The actual coinage consists of silver and nickel. The silver Peso, which is equivalent in weight and fineness—25 grams, 900 thousandths fine—to the 5-franc piece of the Latin Monetary Union, is equivalent to one-half the gold Balboa. The small silver 1/20 Peso, or 2½ centesimos de Balboa, was discontinued in 1907 because of its inconveniently small size, and a nickel piece of the same value was substituted.

A Letter From Uncle George To His Nephew John

A Timely Comment On The High? Cost Of Collecting

My Dear John:

A great deal is being written and said these days concerning the high cost of living. We have grown accustomed to paying double (or more) pre war prices for everything that enters into the house. The cost of food, fuel and clothing has increased enormously during the last few years. To offset this, wages have been increased, but as wages increase so must and does the cost of living.

The collector, however, as far as his hobby goes, is in a fortunate position. Coins have not shared to any large extent in the general increase of values. The newspapers and many magazines have increased their subscription rates, but the Numismatic Monthlies still keep to the old price. How long this happy state of affairs will continue I cannot say. I cannot see how the publishers manage it, unless they are kind-hearted men and do not need the money.

The collectors are to be congratulated—their hobby should be made easy for them. God bless the good old time collector—I like him. He is always in the market and willing to buy and pay cash for the coins he is looking for. Some collectors are always willing to add to their collection if they can secure their wants without spending real money. They are pastmasters in the art of making an exchange, but as for paying cash—why should they when their duplicate box is full? Coin collecting is a hobby fit for a king—and not only for kings, the smallest school-boy may find as much pleasure in it as a king does. True, the king has a great advantage over the school-boy in many things. If a king is known to be a collector, the numismatic societies—learned and otherwise—hasten to enroll him as a member, and an honorary member at that. No self-respecting numismatic society would for one minute think of asking a live king to pay a fee. If the society issues a commemorative medal of any description, they have a specimen struck in gold and beg the king to accept it. He generally does.

But the school-boy collector is another and a different proposition. The numismatic societies do not rush to enroll him among their numbers. And as for giving him medals—they would not even give him a tin one. There are very few collectors blessed with school-boy sons who make the slightest attempt to interest them in their favorite hobby.

Why is this John? I ask you because you have a young son. If you are a baseball fan you will not hesitate to take your boy with you to the ball ground, and together root for the home team. Why not take the boy wih you for a ramble on the numismatic road. Coins are an educative hobby and especially so to the young. A few judiciously selected coins would help him in his study of geography and history. A coin of Angola, Brazil, or Zanzibar will send him to his geography to find out just where these countries are. An old time Liberty head cent, a Jackson Hard Times token, a Connecticut, or New Jersey cent will be illustrative of his own country's history. A Canadian, or Mexican copper will interest him in our own immediate neighbors. An ancient bronze will bridge the gulf of over two thousand years. True—every boy has not the inclination to be a collector—it's not in him, perhaps. But be a sport—give the boy a chance to become a coin-fan like his Dad is, for all you know, he may develop into a much better one. The American boys of today are the collectors of the future. Give them a fair chance.

UNCLE GEORGE.

Dr. F. A. Hassler

We regret to announce the death on August 9th, at his residence in Santa Ana, Cal., of our friend Dr. F. A. Hassler. He has been in failing health for some considerable time and though the end was not unexpected by his family and immediate circle of friends, the announcement of his death will come as a shock to all who knew him.

Ferdinand Augustus Hassler was born on March 6, 1844, at Norfolk, Va., in the Marine Hospital of which his father was at that time in charge. As a boy he became a page in the Senate, and gained considerable knowledge of public life in the Capitol, and the men prominent in the political life of the nation. He was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, holding the degree of M. D. and Ph. D. of that famous College. He had been a resident of California since 1881.

Dr. Hassler was a Numismatist of the older school. He was not content with merely having a collection. His coins were his friends, and he knew them, and their history. Above all, he was interested in the coins that passed readily among the great masses of the people—"the common, every-day people," as Lincoln termed them—of by-gone centuries.

During 1906 and following years, he contributed to the Numismatist a series of papers on "The Copper Coins of Europe." These papers deal more particularly with the coins of the different States that formed the German Empire. Dr. Hassler was of Swiss descent, but found great pleasure in the study of this series. The papers show a knowledge of German history, and give data concerning the various issues that make them invaluable to all interested in this branch of numismatics.

He was also a valued contributor to the pages of this monthly from its start in 1908, various papers from his pen will be found in our back volumes. Dr. Hassler was a great student of Eastern literature—a lover of the Persian and Hindoo poets—and contributed many papers on this subject to various magazines.

He was of a singularly gentle and cultured disposition, though forced of late years to battle with pain, he was always patient, and cheerful to the end. His loss will be felt by many who knew him only as a correspondent—but to whom, through correspondence he had become a dear and valued friend.

He is survived by his wife and three sons, to whom we extend our sincere sympathy.

S. S. H.

Chicago Coin Club

The sixth monthly meeting of the Chicago Coin Club was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Wednesday, August 3. Those present were Miss Naerup, Mrs. Ripstra, Messrs. Ripstra, Hinckley, Lawless, Jonas, Brown, Becker, Kelley, Hoffer, Rackus, Baumann, Davis and Dr. Luttenberger.

The meeting was called to order by President Hinckley. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved, and the treasurer's report was read and placed on file.

A communication from C. F. Clarke of LeRoy, N. Y., was read concerning the recent seizure by government officers of their stock of Confederate,

Broken Bank, State, and Mexican paper money. A letter was also read from W. M. Rosen, Ogden, Iowa, commending the Club on its effort to secure the 1920 A. N. A. convention.

The exhibits were as follows: By Mr. Lawless Shilling of Elizabeth, and a seal of Pope Clement XIII, 1730-1740.

By Mr. Becker, French War Cross, given to an American Corporal by a dying French Sargent.

By Mr. Davis, Thirty large copper cents.

By Mr. Leon, Silver coins of Crotona, Aegina and Larrissa.

By Mr. Rackus, Gold Aureus of Tiberias, Valentinian I, Justinian II, and Honorius, also a very fine collection of the coins of Lithunia, comprising 74 pieces beginning with the earliest issues of John Casimir.

By Dr. Luttenberger, Two 5 silver certificates of the issue of 1886 bearing signatures of C. N. Jordan and Jas. W. Wyatt.

By Mr. Jonas, German New Year medal of 1800, a set of proof copper of Siam, and a number of medals of Sage's Historical series.

By Mr. Hoffer, Dollar of 1799, and a 3 Grosze piece, 1837, struck for Poland.

R. E. DAVIS, Secretary.

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society

The forty-ninth meeting of the Pacific Coast Numismatic Society was held on August 26th, at the office of its Secretary, Suite 329-235 Montgomery St., San Francisco, Cal.

Members present: Messrs. Gill, Hill, Twitchell, Mohr, Seebohm, Phillips, Zerbe and Steinman.

Minutes of the previous meetin gread and approved.

The Secretary read communications to and from "The World's Trade Club, San Francisco," David Lloyd George, British Premier, President Woodrow Wilson, Frank G. Duffield, L. T. Brodstone, Fred Michael, Stamp & Coin Exchange of New oYrk, and B. Max Mehl.

Upon motion of Mr. Steinman, seconded by Mr. Phillips, it was unanimously carried that the design submitted by Mr. Zerbe be adopted as the Society's official seal and emblem and that with a few changes it be turned over to the engraver to be reproduced in zincos and electros suitable for the Society's needs.

Fixed price-lists received from Fred Michaels and Norman Shultz were distributed among the members.

Further business was dispensed with in order to display the members exhibits.

Mr. Phillips showed a collection of casts, cameos and intaglios an exceptionally fine example of art.

Mr. Hill displayed an evenly struck Philippine Island Coin under Spain, Manila, 1828, in unusually fine condition. Peso size.

Mr. Mohr exhibited a collection of Mexican silver Peso size.

Mr. Zerbe's exhibit consisted of late dated gold coins of various countries and paper adn metal relating to the last war.

The meeting then adjourned.

I. LELAND STEINMAN, Secretary-Treasurer.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Monthly Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher
Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

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Vol. X. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, NOVEMBER, 1919 No. 11

With The Editor

Schleswig-Holstein, 1864-1919

The Reunion of Schleswig-Holstein with Denmark is to be commemorated by the issue of a new two-kroner piece. Since 1888, Denmark has issued four commemorative two kroners, but the contemplated issue is of especial importance and of greater significance than any of the preceding issues.

It was on February 1, 1864, that the combined armies of Prussia and Austria crossed the Ejder river. It was in this district that in the year 808, King Gotrix of Denmark checked the advance of the great Charlemagne.

The Danes, under King Christian IX, resisted the invaders, but their courage great as it was could not avail against the invading forces, and at the Peace of Vienna on October 30, 1864, Denmark was forced to yield Schleswig-Holstein to her foes.

What Alsace-Lorraine was to France—Scheswig-Holstein has been to Denmark for over fifty years, and it is fitting that its restoration and reunion should be commemorated on the coinage of Denmark.

The Federation of the Baltic States

It is reported that steps are being taken to form a Federation of the Balkan states of the late Russian Empire. The Provinces of Letvia, Esthonia and Lithuania have much in common with each other. Finland and Northwest Russia are, it is said, in favor of joining forces with the other states. While each state will have local self-government they will have a common currency and customs union. The small upper solidus of Lithuania, with the Norseman reverse, issued under John Casimir, 1648-1688, is known to most collectors of foreign coins.

The American Dollar

The American dollar is today the king of all monetary standards. The British pound, the French franc, and the German mark all bow down before it and yield it due obeisance. And yet never in this country has it been held in less estimation, never has its purchasing power been so small. It is still worth one hundred cents, and each cent bears the legend—**In God we trust.** But our trust in the dollar has been rudely shaken and we realize as never before, that it is not the dollar but value that counts. The dollar is not so important as the things the dollar will buy. Some day it will come into its own again.

Historical Money

The year 1919 is drawing rapidly to a close, and so far, none of the Allied Powers seem disposed to commemorate the signing of Peace by the issue of Victory coins. There is good precedent for issues, Prussia furnished one in 1871 when she struck the "Sieges thaler" to commemorate her victory over France in the Franco-Prussian war. The reverse of this coin represents Prussia, seated, with the royal crown upon her head. Her right hand is resting on the handle of a sword, and her left arm leans upon a shield bearing the Prussian arms, surrounding the whole is the legend "Sieges thaler" (Victory thaler). On the edge is the legend "Gott mit uns" (God with us).

In 1842—M. Anternor Joly proposed to the French legislative chambers the issue of a system of historical money, and he renewed this proposal in 1852. M. Ernest Dumas also suggested the issue of twenty-centime bronze pieces which should serve either as money or as historical medals, but nothing was done in the matter. France certainly never had a better opportunity than the present for the issue of commemorative Victory coins.

The Greek City-states and their Coinage

Aristotle said, that no state should contain more citizens than should at one moment hear the voice of a single herald. With this belief, every Greek city-state fought with extraordinary passion for its existence as a sovereign body, and against any attempt to merge it into a larger union. **The autonomy of the Hellenes,** the sacred principle of Greek politics, meant that every Greek city was to be a separate state.

It is to the existence of these city-states that the world today owes the unparalleled series of Greek coins.To the collector who delights in history and art, and has the time needed for their study, this series is unsurpassed. No other series i nthe world presents such diversity of types, such beauty of design and workmanship. And it is fortunate that many of them can be procured at a very moderate cost.

The Copper Tokens of the Bank of Montreal

Collectors of Canadian coins are to be congratulated on the publication of the new work by Dr. Courteau, St. Jacques, Quebec. Some eighty-eight varieties of the copper tokens issued by the Bank of Montreal are fully described, and the types illustrated. A valuable feature is the approximate degree of rarity which Dr. Corteau gives to each token described. Collectors are after all—very human, and will appreciate the finding of a Rarity 6, or 7, among the specimens they may have of the various tokens described.

The "Flying" Dime of 1916

A correspondent has been reading about Prof. Fisher's plan and asks how it is possible to stabilize the dollar or any other money. He writes: "Take the dime, for instance, the new type of 1916. The designer said that the wings on Liberty's cap are intended to symbolize liberty of thought. May be so. But I have an idea he was a prophet and wished to give us a hint that money would go very fast in the then immediate future. Take care of the dimes and the dollar is big enough to look after itself. For my part I do not think any change for the better will come until the wings are either taken off—or clipped pretty close. Clipping the wings keeps my hens at home—it might keep the dimes."

"Double Subscriptions"

There have been so many Class Publications—coins, stamps, etc.—drop by the wayside after but a short existence that it now requires considerable time for similar publications to gain the confidence of the collecting public.

Confidence in a publication is expressed not so much by the number of subscribers, but more so by the "quality" and length of subscriptions. Two-year subscriptions and renewals have been coming in for the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY in increasing numbers every month, but the most encouraging report was for the month of October. Out of 134 renewals received up to the 25th of the month, 106 were for two years, and 28 for one year. Of the new subscribers received during the same period 83 were for two years, and 41 for one year. The MONTHLY is now completing its tenth successful year, and the prospects for its future has never been more promising than it is at this time.

No Advance in the Subscription Price, Just Now

While everything else has more than doubled in price, the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY has continued its original price of only fifty cents a year, for the past ten years. Recently, we have considered adjusting the subscription price to near its actual cost that of $1 per year. This change has been suggested by a number of friends, one of whom recently wrote as follows:

"I am enclosing $1.00 for extension of my subscription. As you did not state the amount per year, I presume it is still 50c; however, if every-

thing else keeps going up it will soon require about a dollar a month to get out such a fine edition as you have been publishing." G. B. N., Elmira, N. Y.

For the present, at least, the subscription price will remain at 50c a year, but we would advise those whose subscription expires during the coming two or three months to renew promptly.

Collectors and Bargains

We have just had rather forcibly demonstrated to us the old assertion of experienced advertising men, that it is not always the publication but rather the individual advertisement that brings the results. We were also convinced that coin collectors are close readers of coin ads.

In the October number of the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY B. Max Mehl advertised "Ten Good Items at $10 each." One of these items offered was a "$10.00 Gold Piece, 1804" and described—"No, not a 'bargain' but worth every cent of Ten Dollars." Of course, this was a typographical error, as it was intended for an 1804 $5 gold piece and not a $10 coin. But business certainly picked up in a hurry, not only in numerous orders but also in most interesting comment from a number of readers. One buyer in sending in his check for $10 writes, "I, like a good many hundred others will send $10 for this coin. Perhaps that was the idea—to see how many were real bargain hunters." Another subscriber's comment reads as follows:

"Since you offer an 1804 $10 gold piece for ten dollars I question your statement that it is 'not a bargain' but almost agree with you that it is 'worth every cent of it' since it is described as 'very fine.' I write to inquire who pays the freight, or is this to be purchased with Professor Fisher's stabilized dollars?" This writer is apparently a close observer, and calls our attention to another amusing typographical error: "Liberty Gap Cent, offered to fill out this space." "Gap" is good. It filled it.

However, while these errors slip us, we are not sorry that they happened, as they had no effect on the sales—everything advertised being sold out—and it demonstrated rather forcibly that the MONTHLY is being closely read.

More Comment on Professor Fisher's Theory of Stabilizing the Dollar

"Debate of Professor Fisher's theory is to be encouraged. I discussed it with him in 1915. He has given it long and careful study and it has the endorsement of many high in finance. It is a mooted question if his plan for stabilizing the purchasing power of the dollar would prove practical but he leads the way for a discussion as to how we may cope with an alarming condition—the fluctuating purchasing power of money—a situation which is becoming vital.

We are aprpoaching the time when money, particularly as it relates to deferred payments, is going to have its purchasing power fixed according to the value of things. The value of money is in what you can obtain for it."

FARRAN ZERBE.

A Fiction Writer's Strange Ideas of Numismatics

In one of the fiction monthlies for October—Mr. Albert Payson Terhune, a well known writer of sport stories, has presented the reading public with a story containing some strange views on numismatics. The interest centres in the last remaining specimen of the "Thirty pieces" of Scripture, the property of a collector who values it as the choicest gem in his collection—which consisted we are told— of **"a dozen battered ancient coins."** The piece is said to be the last specimen extant of the thirty silver shekels that were paid to Judas Iscariot for the betrayal of his master. Mr. Terhune describes the coin as—"in size between a quarter and a half dollar, on one side it was covered with half effaced characters; on the other it bore an inscription considerably more than half effaced."

The Rev. Edgar Rogers, M. A., is better known as a numismatic than a writer of fiction. In his work, **"A Handy Guide to Jewish Coins,"** he says of these "thirty pieces of silver"—"It is clear that large silver coins equal in value to the shekel are intended. * * * Now the Greek coin corresponding to the shekel would be the tetradrachm. * * * for no shekels were current in the time of our Lord. Absolute certainty of attribution is impossible. The coins would probably be tetradrachms of the Greek cities of Syria, or Greek Imperial states of Antioch or Caesarea. The probabilities seem to be in favor of the coins of Antioch."

The Antioch coins had on obverse, the head of Augustus, the reverse shows the Tyche of Antioch, seated on a rock, holding a palm branch. Weight, 234 grains. Size in millimetres 25.

Mr. Terhune tells us that the coins direct descent from one collector to another was known for the last thousand years. Some pedigree this! But it had been worn very thin by the constant polishing given it by the different numismatists who had owned it during the past thousand years. We cannot say how the numismatists of a thousand years ago kept their silver coins in fine condition, but today, in the higher numismatic circles it is not considered good form to expend too much energy in polishing such costly and rare specimens. Coins are not door knobs or name plates and are not treated that way except by the numismatists of fiction.

WANT TWO-CENT PIECES.

NEW YORK, Sept. 17.—A campaign urging the government to reissue the two-cent coin, withdrawn from circulation in 1874, the new coin to bear on the obverse side a bas-relief portrait of the late President Roosevelt, was inaugurated by the Women's Roosevelt Memorial Association. The new coin, it is pointed out, would be useful in the payment for war taxes on small articles, newspapers and street car fares. A letter urging the creation of the coin has been sent to Carter Glass, secretary of the treasury.

£55 FOR A 1d STAMP.

A New Britain 1d stamp, surcharged "G. R. I.," fetched £55 at a philatelic auction in London. A block of four 3-anna Mesopotamian stamps surcharged "Irag," realized £80, and three New Britain stamps, face value 9d, made £11.

Report of the Proceedings of the Annual Convention of the American Numismatic Association, Held at Philadelphia, October 4 to 8, 1919

First Session, Monday, October 6.

Before the first day's session was called to order Hon. J. P. Hale Jenkins, member of the association and also member of the Valley Forge Society, in honor of the visit of the Association to Valley Forge, presented the Association with a gavel made, the head from a dogwood tree, which grew on Fort Washington at Valley Forge and the handle from the elm tree growing beside Washington's Headquarters, which is a scion of an elm tree at Mount Vernon.

The gift was appropriately accepted on behalf of the Association by President Wurtzbach.

The annual report of the General Secretary for the year ending July 31st, 1919, showed a present active membership of 489, a loss of 89 members during the fiscal year, of which four were by death, four by resignation and eighty-one by non-payment of dues.

After the appointment of the usual committees, Mr. Waldo C. Moore donated a number of large sovereign pennies which were auctioned off by Dr. French of Rochester, and realized a total of $155.00 for the benefit of the official organ of the Association.

Second Session, Tuesday, October 7.

Mr. Judson Brenner suggested that it would be appropriate and very necessary to have a member of the Board of Governors located in the city where the convention may be held.

Invitation for the 1920 convention was received from a number of cities, but Chicago was unanimously chosen as the convention city. The date of the convention, however, is left to the decision of the Board of Governors.

Mr. Morse spoke in regard to the recent seizure of paper money by the Government, and stated that active work on the subject was being carried on by Mr. Blake.

Mr. Brenner called the convention's attention to the fact that collection at the mint is allowed only $360 per year by Congress for the purchase of addition specimens, and that the mint collection does not include any paper money. A motion by Mr. Brenner was unanimously carried that the convention go on record as being in favor of an appropriation of $15,000 or $20,000 be made by Congress for the purpose of adding paper money collection to the Mint Cabinet.

President Wurtzbach's Address

I want to take this opportunity to express my personal appreciation and gratitude to the officials who, during these past two years in which you have honored me in electing me President of this Association, have aided with their constant devotion and self-sacrifice to the interests of the Association. It is due, especially to our beloved fellow member, Mr. Duffield, to give an additional word of appreciation, because it is known to all of you, I think, that

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OF THE
AMERICAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION
PHILADELPHIA OCTOBER 4TH TO 8TH
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during the time that he has so splendidly taken care of the interests of our official organ—a time of stress and trial and difficulties for all of us—our friend passed through trials, afflictions and bereavement quite as severe as comes to any human being. Two years ago, when we met in the delightful city of Rochester, the memory of the profitable meetings that we had lingers in the minds of us all. At that time we were engaged in the great world struggle, and a city that is shrine of liberty is most fitting for a gathering of American citizens. And so we are here at this time in this historic city for the primary purpose of keeping alive an interest in our science to engage in the delightful intercourse that the social side of the Association provides. No one can be a collector of coins; no one can be a student of numismatics without having patriotism installed in the very fibre of his being by the study of the coins. I love to think of the Colonial period, I like to think of the specimens that are on exhibition, and those that many of us are privileged to own. Not to think of them as coins, but what they meant to the men of their day and generation who made them. I like to think that the indulgence in our hobby relieves the mind and relaxes the bodies of men who are engaged in the active pursuits of life, and as a company of men we are more free from those distracting things that make us forget ourselves than is the privilege of men who do not have something of this kind to take them from the active cares and duties of life. I want to express my thanks to the Association in honoring me with the presidency. I feel it is a high and great honor. It is not a large association. Many of us have perhaps been honored with election to high and important civic office and engaged in important duties in the communities in which we live. All of us are prominent in the doing of our simple daily duty, which, after all, is the highest privilege and greatest honor that can come to anyone of us. But I do feel, fellow members and friends, that in the election of an office of this kind, from a widely scattered membership, covering our entire country and members across the seas, it is no small honor to me personally, and I am sure that I voice the sentiment and give utterance to the feeling that has animated every one of our presidents that it is light honor that you have conferred upon us. If there is anything that I have done to further the interests of the Association, to make it a more permanent institution, to aid the delightfulness of its fellowship, or to add to its importance in this country of ours, if there is anything I have done to aid, in your judgment, I am happy for it. In laying down the gavel as I soon shall do, I shall always cherish the memory of the two years I have presided over the meetings of this association. As we go from this assembly and return to our various homes, I am sure that something shall have been learned here, something given to one another, something of that spirit engendered by coming together for a common purpose, that shall enable us to more acceptably perform the duties placed upon us until we meet in the city of Chicago, there to renew the bonds of friendship, made stronger in this City of Brotherly Love, and that our succeeding conventions will be more successful and more delightful because of this convention and because of what we have striven to do, for an association which has as its object the perpetuity of the noble science of numismatics.

In the afternoon a personally conducted trip to and through the Navy Yard was enjoyed by all.

Mr. Howland Wood read a paper on "War Medals and Decorations."

Session of Wednesday, October 8.

The only business considered at the morning session was the nomination for officers.

At the afternoon session, Judge Jenkins, on behalf of the Committee on Election, gave the following report:

President, W. C. Moore		82 votes
President, Dr. French		51 votes
First Vice-President, Henry Chapman		81 votes
Second Vice-President, Mr. Oliver		95 votes
Second Vice-President, Mr. McLaughlin		36 votes
Secretary, Mr. Yawger		124 votes
Treasurer, Mr. Bauer		126 votes
Chairman Board of Governors, Mr. Wormser		130 votes
Members, Board of Governors (4 to be elected)	Mr. Leon	124 votes
	Mr. Pond	94 votes
	Mr. Boyle	94 votes
	Mr. Lardner	91 votes
	Mr. S. Chapman	80 votes

Dr. French suggested changing the manner of voting so that names of nominees may be in the hands of the secretary sixty days before the date of the convention.

Mr. Bauer suggested that steps be taken so that members not present may have the names of the nominees and do their own voting by ballot.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NICKEL AND NICKLE.

Correspondent writes wanting to know the difference between nickel and nickel. As we understand it, the former is a valuable and variously useful metal, while the latter is a coin used in the purchase of ice cream cones and for placing on church collection plates.

WAR DEPARTMENT AVERSE TO MEDAL COLLECTING.

In response to inquiries as to the attitude of the War Department with respect to collectors or individuals handling medals awarded by the United States, the following statement was made:

The Secretary of War directs that it is the policy of the War Department not to sell to collectors or to individuals specimens of medals awarded by the United States.

COPPER COINS' SHORTAGE IN LONDON NEARS END.

LONDON, Sept. 20.—"Rationing" by London bankers of pennies and half-pennies is expected to end with the vacation period, as the mint is working steadily. The scarcity of copper coins is a puzzle to mint officials. Most of them probably have been distributed in France. The farthing vanished long ago.

With these soaring prices, a dollar may become so small only microbes can live on it.

THE QUESTION BOX

Removing the Crust From an Ancient Coin

Important Correction

Page 124 (October issue), seventeenth line from top of page, should read: "Take half an ounce of Potassium, add this to an HALF PINT OF WATER, &c."

The "Tory" Cent---What is it?

"Please explain—what is a Tory cent, and the meaning of the term so often used in auction-sale catalogues." F. B. W. Muskegon, Mich.

The term "Tory cent" is very indefinite, and its meaning grows more vague as the years pass on. At the time of the rebellion of the thirteen States in 1776, the two great political parties in England were generally known as the Whigs and Tories. Democracy, or Liberalism was a weak plant and powerless at that time. The voting franchise was restricted, and "pocket-boroughs" sent the great majority of members to Parliament (the House of Commons). The great land owners controlled the votes of their tenants, and as the polling was open, the voters returned their landlords nominee. It meant loss of home, farm, work or position to vote against him. These constituencies were called "pocket-buroughs," because the landlords were said to carry them in their pockets, and practically appointed their members—who were often younger members of their family.

Most of these landowners were "Tories." A Tory was a fine old crusted Conservative, an ardent supporter of established institutions in politics, an upholder of Church and State, a firm believer in the Divine right of Kings. The "Whig" of this period was a trifle—a mere trifle more progressive than the Tory to whom he was opposed. The Whigs were the more conservative section of the Liberal party—opposed to the "Radicals," as the more advanced section were called. A "Tory" was above all a firm believer in the doctrine of the Divine right of Kings, and this belief was hateful to Washington, and the patriots of the Continental States. Against this they had risen in rebellion, fought and conquered.

Some of the States—Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Vermont, &c, issued a series of copper coins. These are all too well known to describe in detail, but as we understand it—the term—"TORY CENT" was first applied to the Vermont cent dated 1787. The Obverse bears a bust of George III. with the legend—VERMON AUCTORI. Reverse, Britannia seated to left, legend—BRITANNIA—1787. The legends clash with each other as Vermont was at this time free from all British rule. This coin was said to have been issued by the Tories—those in favor of British rule—and was known as the Tory cent. It was certainly not issued by the authority of the State

as the Obverse legend implies. This coin is always poorly struck, especially on the Reverse.

The term—Tory cent, is very elastic in its application. Many include under it the counterfeit regal half-pennies of George III, 1776-1788. There were no regular copper coins issued in England between 1775 and 1797. Probably a reverse die of this series was used for the Vermont issue.

Overdates on U. S. Cents

A correspondent asks us to give a list of and explain the reasons for the "overdates" on U. S. cents.

This question was fully answered in our April, 1918, issue. We have nothing to add to the answer then given, and must refer him to our monthly of that date, where he will find the information desired.

The Hudson Bay Company's Tokens--Their Value in Trade

"Breton's catalogue of Canadian Coins says that the largest of these tokens represents the value of One Made Beaver Skin. Can you tell me what was the value of a made beaver skin in our currency?"

F. Whymper—in his "Travels in Alaska," page 225, says: "This term (skin) is the old one employed by the company. One skin (beaver) is supposed to be worth two shillings, and it represents two marten, and so on. You heard a great deal about "skins" at Fort Yukon, as the workmen were also charged for clothing, etc., in this way."

Practically—Breton 926, the largest of the four tokens, passed for a half-dollar, and the smaller pieces for proportional values.

From the earliest time, skins were taken as a representative of value. In the book of Job (ii. 4) we read, "Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will be given for his life." This statement clearly implies their recognized use as mediums of value.

A "Mule"---What is it?

"What is the meaning of the word 'mule' when applied to a coin?"

A coin, token or medal, is said to be a "mule" when the obverse and reverse are from dies that were not made to be used in conjunction with each other.

Mules are seldom if ever found in the regular official coinage of a nation. Many examples are found among the Jackson Hard Times, and the political token of the first half of the last century—also in the small token issued during the Civil War. The British eighteenth century tokens are particularly rich in varieties made by the use of these mixed dies.

SILVER COINAGE DOUBLING.

LONDON—Silver coinage in the last five years has nearly doubled that of the preceding five years in Great Britain. From 1909 to 1914 the output was just under 17,000,000 pounds. For the next five-year period it was nearly 32,000,000 pounds.

The Coinage of Latin America

Brazil

This is the third of a series of articles on the Latin American Coinage Prepared for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY

By M. Sorensen.

The colonial coinage of Brazil begins with the establishment of a mint at Bahia by Peter II in 1694. Prior to that time the currency of the country, apart from European, chiefly Portuguese coins, was Spanish-American silver coins, which were often countermarked with designations of value in Portuguese Reis. The monetary system established by the same decree, which provided for a colonial mint, correspond closely to that of the mother country, Portugal, in so far as denominations were concerned; but a special colonial standard was prescribed. This standard fixed the relation of gold and silver in the proportion of 14.82 to 1, while the standard of the national coinage of Portugal was 16 to 1. This first colonial mint was established at Bahia, whence five years later it was transferred to Rio de Janerio, and in the following year, 1700, or perhaps a year or two later, a second mint was established at Pernambuco, the coins of which were distinguished by the mint mark P.

In 1714 another mint was installed at Bahia, coins of which bear the mint mark B, and finally the last minting establishment to be provided for the conoly was one at Villa Rica de Ouro Preto, in the Province of Minas Geraes, which was rich in mining districts. The distinguishing mark of the coins of this mint is the letter M, the initial of the name of the Province.

The obverse type of the gold and silver coins struck in Brazil up to 1703 consists of a crowned shield of arms of Portugal, the date and designation of value, and the title of the king with the addition of BRASILIX DOMINUS, in full or abbreviated, a portion of the inscription sometimes extending to the reverse. On the reverse of the gold coins, not only of the first issues, but later on the gold coins struck on the colonial system, was the cross of St. George within a tressure of four lobes, while on the reverse of the silver coins was a globe on a cross of the Order of Christ, and in the angles of the cross the legend SVBQ(e) SIGN(o) NATA STAB(it). This motto has been variously explained; it is perhaps to be translated: "The land discovered under (this) sign (i. e., of the cross shall prosper."

By a decree of 1703 the gold coins of the mint at Rio de Janerio were struck on the same standard as those of Portugal, and also with same types, with this difference, that instead of rosettes in the angles of the cross on the reverse, the letter R, the mint mark of Rio de Janerio, was placed in each of the four angles. In 1722 John V. of Portugal followed the example of the other European countries and placed his portrait on his coins, and in 1727 gold coins of Brazil were also issued bearing the portrait of the monarch, the colonial coins being distinguished from those of the mother country by the presence of a mint mark beneath the bust.

In the reign of Joseph I. a noteworthy special coinage of silver took place at the mints of Bahia and Rio de Janerio for circulation in the mining region, and were known as moedas minieras. The series consisted of four pieces of the value of 600, 300, 150, and 75 Reis, respectively. On the obverse

these coins have a large J, crowned; and on the rverse the usual type of the silver coins of Brazil.

Copper coins struck for the Portuguese colony of Angola, in Africa, were supplied to Brazil until 1715, when the mint at Lisbon struck a special copper coin for the American colony, and in 1729 the coinage of copper was begun at Bahia. These copper coins all have the Brazilian globe and around it the legend PECUNIA TOTUM CIRCUMIT ORBEM.

The invasion of Portugal by the French in 1807 compelled the court to seek refuge in Brazil, whither the seat of government was transferred. In a short time the trade of the colony had so increased that the supply of silver was insufficient; and in order to meet the increased demand a decree was issued September 1, 1808, which authorized the circulation of the Spanish Pesos, at a valuation of 960 Reis, after being officially countermarked at the mints and assay offices. The countermarks on these Pesos are, on one side, the arms of Portugal, and on the other, the Brazilian globe.

In 1815 the Prince Regent, John of Portugal, erected the United Kingdom of Portugal, Brazil, and Algarve, and in 1818 his portrait as John VI. appeared on the coins, the arms of the new kingdom being placed on the reverse.

The creation of the Empire of Brazil in 1822 had no immediate effect on the monetary system of the country. The bust of the Emperor and the arms of Brazil are found on the gold coins; while the arms occupied the obverse of the silver and copper, with the value, date, and mint mark within a wreath on the reverse.

During the reign of Dom Pedro II. important changes were made in the standard of gold and silver. From 1831 to 1833 the system established in 1824, in the reign of Dom Pedro I., was continued. This was based on the Portuguese colonial system, with a double standard. In that system the Oitava of gold, 22 carats fine, was valued at 1$600 and 1$777 Reis, the Meia Dobra struck in the former being valued at 6$400 Reis, the Moeda in the latter at 4$000Reis. The coins of each series have the bust of the Emperor as a child of 6 years of age. The silver of this period was 916⅔ thousandts fine and the 2 Pataca piece of 640 Reis weighed 5 Oitavas. In 1883 the value of gold was raised to 2$500 Reis per Oitava, 22 carats fine. The Meia Dobra on this standard has a value of 10$000Reis. The silver 2 Pataca piece still weighed 5 Oitavas, but its value was 800 Reis, and the Patagon or piece of 3 Patacas of corresponding weight and value, that is, 1$200 Reis. On the earlier coins of the period when this standard was in use, 1833 to 1849, is found the bust of the Emperor as a boy, and on the later we have his bust as a mature man in the uniform of an admiral.

In 1849 Brazil adopted the gold standard for which purpose the value of the Oitava of gold, 22 carats fine, was fixed at 4$000 Reis. There were issued in gold a piece of 20$000 Reis, weighing 17.930 grams, and its half of 10$000 Reis, both without mint marks. The largest silver coin under this new law was the piece of 2$000 Reis, the successor of the Patagon, weighing 25 grams, which was raised to 25.50 in 1875. The Milreis, and the piece of 500 Reis, of proportional weight, were also struck.

The bust on this last issue of gold coins and of silver after 1867 was that of a mature, heavily bearded man.

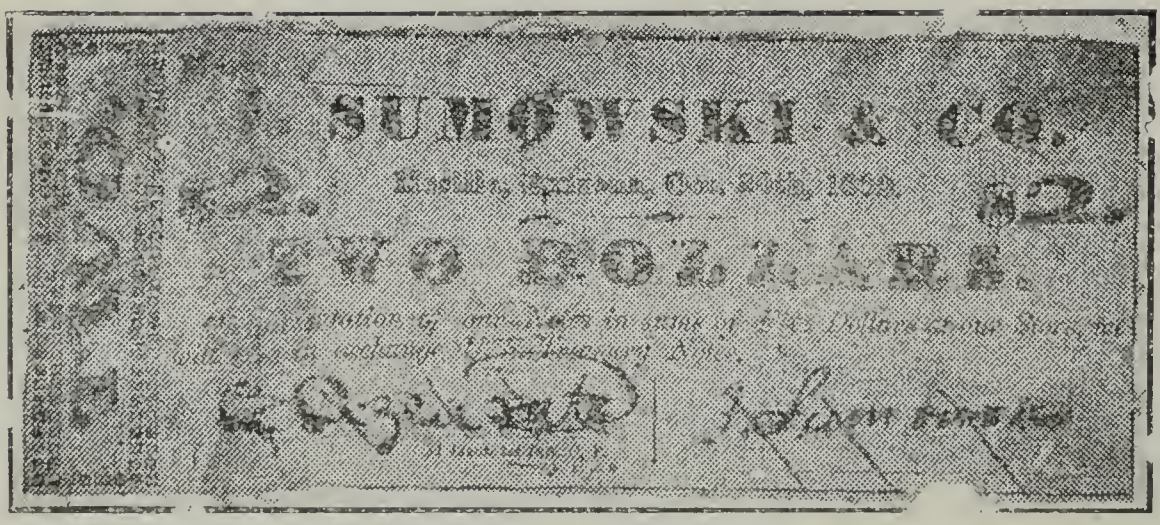
By a decree of September 3, 1870, a divisional coinage in nickel was introduced, and pieces of 200, 100, and 50 Reis were struck in that metal. On the obverse of these coins is the inscription, IMPERIO DO BRAZIL, and the arms of the Empire, while on the reverse is the value and the legend DECRETO NO. 1817 DE 3 DE SETEMBRO DE 1870.

The Republic of Brazil, when established in 1889, made no change in the monetary system, but there was a change of types to correspond with the new order of government. A female bust with a Phrygian cap appeared on the silver in 1889, and the inscription REPUBLICA DOS ESTADOS UNIDOS DO BRAZIL; and on the reverse one finds the arms of the Republic and the legend ORDEN E PROGRESO.

At various times there have been mints in Brazil at the following cities: Bahia (B), Rio De Janerio (R), Pernambuco (P), Villa Rica de Ouro Preto, Miras Geraes (M), Sao Paolo (S P), Goyaz (G), and Cuyaba (C). At the beginning of the reign of Dom Pedro II. only four of these mints were in operation, and during his reign the mints at Bahia, Goyaz, and Cuyaba were closed, leaving only the one at Rio de Janerio active.

The arms of the Republic of Brazil: A round shield azure the constellation of the Southern Cross argent, a bordure charged with 21 stars; the shield on a five-pointed star the rays partly vert and or. The whole upon a sword in pale, within a wreath of laurel and coffee.

Legend, ESTADOS UNIDOS DO BRAZIL 15 DE NOVEMBRE DE 1899.



"Rag Money"

Rare and Little Known Local Currency Issued on the Border During the Civil War

By L. A. Cardwell, in the Borderland Collector.

What is probably the least known local currency issued during the Civil war period was the "rag money" printed at Mesilla, Arizona Territory (now in New Mexico) in 1862.

At this time Mesilla, then in Arizona Territory, was not the sleepy old town of today but was the most important trade center in this section of the

southwest. It was the hub from which radiated the stage coach and trade routes from San Antonio, Santa Fe and Chihuahua. It was a supply center for Southern New Mexico, much of West Texas, part of Arizona and northern Mexico. Through this quaint old town surged the great tide of gold seekers that poured westward to California in '79, by way of the Santa Fe trail, San Augustine Pass and Paso del Norte. It was here that the Gadsden purchase was consummated and the Stars and Stripes unfurled over the great stretch south of the Gila as American territory.

Around La Mesilla clusters enough true story and tradition of Western bad men, Indians and early political feuds to furnish plots for a hundred novels. Today its splendor is faded. The railroads coming has robbed it of commercial importance and tradition of past grandeur is all that is left. The same adobe walls which so long looked down on stirring history making events and which alike saw the advent of the Spaniard three centuries ago, and later that of the Americans, still stand clustered around the little plaza. It is rare that anything more exciting than a "baile" comes to interrupt the "siesta" into which the one time capitol of Arizona territory has fallen.

Early in the war Col. John R. Baylor of the second mounted rifles C. S. A. occupied Mesilla and this entire section of New Mexico fell into the hands of the Confederates. In August, 1862, the Federals under Gen. Jos. H. Catron, known as the "California Column," reached Mesilla and this section came under Federal rule. About this time the first issue of "rag money" must have been struck.

In an old newspaper published 35 years ago, the writer found an article which in giving a brief history of Mesilla speaks of an old press in use there at the time upon which many old time border newspapers were published, and sheds some light upon the production of this currency. It says:

"On arrival of the 'California Column' in 1862, ten companies were stationed there (Mesilla) and the press was confiscated. Printers were detailed, who executed army blanks and 'rag money,' the only medium of exchange then in circulation."

This "rag money" is very simple in design, being a typeset form printed on starch filled cloth, hence the nickname "rag money." Of this issue the writer has only seen one specimen, a $2.00 piece, in the collection of Prof. George Griggs of Messila. It consists of a promise to pay to the bearer by Surquski & Co. at Messilla, Arizona. It is known to have been issued in denominations of $1.00, $2.00 and $5.00, though higher denominations must have been struck. Of course, there is no record as to the number of pieces produced. The issue was doubtless a limited one as we measure such things now and at present these pieces are very rare. Possibly not a dozen specimens all told of this interesting local currency is in existence today.

MASTER OF THE ROYAL MINT, OTTAWA.

Mr. A. H. W. Cleave, F. I. M. E., F. R. M. S., is the new Master of the Royal Mint, Ottawa. He came to Canada in 1905 as superintendent and supervisor of the erection of buildings.

If 245 marks were worth 100 francs in Cologne yesterday, and if 7.97 francs were worth $1 in New York, what is a mark worth?

Coins of Albania

At the present time much interest is being paid to the future of the Balkan States, and definite peace and boundaries are still unsettled. There will be changes made in he map of Europe, and perhaps none greater than in this section. The dismemberment of Turkey causes some of us trouble on Thanksgiving Day—and Turkey is Turkey—whether in Europe or on our own table. The following notes on Albanian coins—adapted from a paper by Dr. C. Stockert, are as interesting and valuable today, as when published in an European monthly some six years ago.

During the mediaeval period, money was coined within the borders of modern Albania. The Princes of Zeta—whose dominion embraced part of Montenegro and part of the actual North Albania—George II Stracimirovic (1385-1402), and his son Balsha III (1402-1421) issued silver coins. Those of the latter show on the Obverse—St. Lawrence, patron of the dynasty, with Reverse showing a shield with their Arms (a wolf's bust), helm and crest. Several of the North Albanian towns preserved their ancient rights of self-government and issued coins. Cattaro and Scutari issued both copper and silver coins. Cattaro used for its autonomous copper follari, on the Obverse, the full length effigy of St. Trifon, patron of the town; on the Reverse a castle (sign of its independence), or again the effigy of the saint.

While on the Obverse always faithful to its patron saint, Cattaro accommodated the Reverse to the change of its mediaeval protectors, showing under Ludovic I, King of Hungary (1370-1382) the shield of arms of the Anjou, under Turtko, King of Bosnia (1385-1392) a large Gothic T surmounted by an open crown; and under Ladislaus, King of Hungary (1392-1405) solely a large open crown.

It issued silver coins under the protection, and bearing the names of Dushan the Powerful, Emperor of Serbia (1346-1356), of his son Stjepan Urosh (1356-1371), of Ludovic, King of Hungary (1370-1388), of Ostia, King of Bosnia (1404-1405), and of St. Mark of Venice after 1420.

All the coins issued at Scutari bear the effigy of St. Stephen on the Obverse, while the Reverse is adorned with the town's Arms, or Christ, or St. Stephen, or a large cross.

Scutari was the only Albanian town besides Cattaro that issued silver coins (groshes). The Obverse always shows St. Stephen. Some bear on Reverse the name and figure of Konstantin, King of Zeta (1321-1322), and others George I Stracemir Prince of Zeta (1385-1405.

Other Albanian towns—Antivari, Dulcigno, Dravosto, and Shass also issued copper follari with figures of the Virgin, or a saint.

We shall doubtless see several fresh series of coins issued in this part of Europe in the near future. It is safe to say that the types will be very different to those of mediaeval days. One of the results of the great world war will be a series of coins that will be interesting and instructive both to students and collectors of the future.

Somebody has raised a call for the coining of a half-cent piece. The nickel has shrunk to half its former size. If the half-cent were to follow suit it might need a magnifying glass to see it.

Do You Know That

In 1631, Massachusetts declared corn to be a legal tender, and four years later it was ordained that public dues were to be paid in this commodity at the rate of six shillings per bushel.

In 1641, wampum or Indian shell money was declared legal tender under ten pounds, but within eight years the Massachusetts Assembly refused to accept it for taxes. The fact was that it depended solely upon Indian trade, and when this began to decline, wampum was valueless. Rhode Island was the last of the thirteen colonies to discontinue its use for taxes, which it did in 1662; though it acted as small change in New Haven well into the eighteenth century.

In 1652, a mint was established in Massachusetts. John Hall, the goldsmith of Boston, was made its master. The coins had stamped upon them the word Massachusetts encircling a tree, which was in early years a willow, later an oak, and finally a pine.

The Virginia Assembly, in 1645, tried to fix the legal value of the Spanish coins which were in common use, and also proposed a copper coinage of their own. (The Thirteen Colonies of North America. R. W. Jeffery.)

In 1635, leaden bullets were used for change in Massachusetts at the rate of a farthing a piece. Lead is still current in Burmah, being passed by weight for small payments.

In 1618, the Governor of the Plantations of Virginia ordered that tobacco should be received in payment for debt at the rate of three shillings for the pound weight, under the penalty of three years' hard labor.

As late at 1732, the legislature of Maryland made tobacco and Indian corn legal tenders. (By **legal tender** is denoted such money as a creditor is obliged to receive in requittal of a debt expressed in terms of money of the state or realm.)

In 1680, tin farthings were struck by Charles II., a stud of copper being inserted in the middle of the coin to render counterfeiting more difficult. Tin half-pence and farthings were also issued in considerable quantities in the reign of William and Mary (1690 to 1691).

The Irish money issued by James II. was said to have been coined from a mixture of old guns, broken bells, waste copper, brass, and pewter, old kitchen furniture, and in fact any refuse metal which his officers could lay their hands upon. He attempted to make pewter crowns circulate for the value of silver coins.

It is said that Saint Louis, the great King of France, finding much want of small money to pay his soldiers, caused little pieces of silver wire, weighing nine and eighteen grains, to be fixed on pieces of leather, and circulated for one and two dime pieces. The silver gave the value and the leather served as a case or handle to preserve the small bit of metal from being lost.

The French Revolutionary Government melted up the bells of the churches seized by them, and the **sons de cloche**, as they were called, made from the bell metal, were superior to coins of pure copper.

(Money. W. Stanley Jevons.)

The New York Numismatic Club

A regular meeting was held Friday evening, October 10th, at the new Grand Hotel. President A. R. Frey presiding, the following members attended: Messrs. Busley, Belden, Burke, Beatty, Boyd, Blake, Elder, Frey, Kohler, Newell, Noe, Proskey, Raymond, Riley, Swanson, Velentine, Wood, and Wormser, and as guests: Mrs. Wayte Raymond, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Proskey, Miss Helen Proskey, Dr. E. Robinson, J. E. Morse, H. H. Yawger, and R. W. McLacklan.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved; treasurer's report read and accepted. Owing to the sudden illness of the secretary, Mr. Boyd, Mr. George H. Blake was appointed secretary pro tem. Mr. Smith, chairman of executive committee, stated no meeting had been called.

Membership Committee reported favorably on the application of Mr. Samuel Pulis. Mr. Samuel Pulis elected to membership.

Under the head of Miscellaneous Business, the Nominating Committee for officers for 1920 came up, and the following committee was duly elected: J. M. Swanson, Dr. Proskey and Howland Wood.

Suggestions for topic of next meeting resulted in choosing "Consular Roman Coins" prior to Augustus in any metal.

Welcoming of guests:

President A. R. Frey called on J. C. Morse, who thanked the club for invitation to be at this meeting and called attention to the increasing interest in paper money. Mr. H. H. Yawger also thanked the club for the opportunity of being present. Mr. McLacklan of Montreal spoke on numismatic matters in Canada. Dr. Robinson of Newport, R. I., thanked the club for the privilege and pleasure of being present. Dr. Burke spoke of his great interest in Greek copper coins and a result of the interest he created by his talk, the topic of "Greek Copper Coins" was set for the January meeting.

Mr. Wood and Mr. Wormser spoke on the A. N. A. convention and Mr. Wormser was congratulated upon his election as chairman of Board of Governors of the A. N. A.

Exhibits of the evening:

Mr. Wayte Raymond, fine Aureii of Faustina and Lucius Verus in very fine condition.

Mr. McLacklan, two Peace Medals of Dominion of Canada to commemorate the term of the Great European War, also one half crown James I.

Mr. Beesely Martin exhibited first bronze of about twenty Roman Emporers.

Mr. Proskey exhibited 31 Roman Denarii with finest portraits and 15 different large bronzes, two bearing very rare Tribunitian dates.

F. C. BOYD,
Secretary.

It is idle to talk of coining seven-cent pieces for street-car fares. It would be only another year before we would have to discontinue them and begin to coin fourteen-cent pieces. —New York World.

EVERY MINT on a 24 hour day basis grinding out ninety million pennies a month but can't meet the demand.

Chicago Coin Club

The monthly meeting of the Chicago Coin Club was held at the Hotel Sherman, Chicago, Wednesday, October 1. The following were present: Miss Naerup, Mrs. Ripstra, Messrs. Brown, Cameron, Davis, Hinckley, Jonas, Kelley, Lawless, Leon, Malizsek, Rackus and Ripstra.

The meeting was called to order by the president. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. M. J. McKinley, Edgar S. Cameron and Sandor Malizsek were elected to membership. Applications for membership were received from Albert L. Van der Bergen and Carl Boekons, of Chicago, and N. E. Carter, of Elkhorn, Wisconsin.

A number of questions concerning the financing of the 1920 convention arose, and considerable ddiscussion followed. Mr. Leon was instructed to invite the American Numismatic Association to hold its 1920 convention here in Chicago.

The exhibits were as follows: By Mrs. Brown, a number of modern Chinese copper pieces, including 20 cash Kiang Ho, 10 and 1 cash of Kiang Nan and 1 cash of Hu Peh.

By Mr. Davis, Groat of Henry VII, Shillings of Phillip and Mary.

By Mr. Rackus, Aurei of Vespasian, Tiberius, Nero and others, some Arabian glass money, fish hook and boat money of the Straits Settlements, wheel money of Gaul, a very fine crown of Sigismund Augustus of Poland, and four reals of Ferdinand and Isabella.

By Mr. Hinckley, nine old Chicago store cards.

By Mr. Malizsek, a number of Greek and Roman coins.

By Mr. Leon, large gold piece of Wurtemburg, and 250 scudos of Pope Pius IX.

By Mr. Jones, a number of coins of the Dominican Republic and Three Lincoln medals.

DAVIS,
Recording Secretary.

Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society

The regular monthly meeting of the Western Pennsylvania Numismatic Society was called to order at 8 p. m., Tuesday, September 2nd, in Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa., President G. F. E. Wilharm in the chair. Other members present were Messrs. Kraft, Marlier, Boyle, Gaede, Locker, Piper and Gies.

A communication, asking our co-operation in urging the universal adoption of the meter-liter-gram, was received from the World Trade Club of San Francisco. After an interesting debate on the subject, a resolution was offered by Mr. Marlier, seconded by Mr. Boyd, that we respectfully urge that the units of the Metric System be adopted by the Congress of the United States of America and the British Parliament as the exclusive legal standards of weights and measures, voted unanimously.

Further resolved, that copies hereof be forwarded to the President of the United States of America and the British Premier and other legislators concerned.

Exhibits of the evening:

By Mr. Kraft: U. S. Cents, 1799, 1803 large 3, pointed 1, 1806, 1817 "Mouse Head" 1817 med. date, Unc., 1820 Over 19, 1809 half cent.

Mr. Wilharm: U. S. Cent 1799, Half Cents 1797 lettered edge, 1797 1 above 1 in date, 1863 Three Dollar Gold, Proof, 1875 Quarter Eagle, Proof, 1771 Seige Piece, for Tournay, Half Cent with head of Washington stamped on obverse.

Mr. Locker: U. S. Cents 1799, 1795 Fillet Head, 1797, 1798, 1800 over 179, 1800 Q variety, complete set of 5c Nickels Unc. and Proof.

Mr. Piper: 9 Bronze Medals of Washington, Lincoln, Queen Anna of England.

Mr. Boyle: Silver Dollars, 1795, 1797, Quarter Dollar 1807, U. S. Cents 1847 three var., 1848, 1849 two var., 1850, 1853 two var., 1854 all Unc.

Mr. Gaede: Half Dollar 1797, 2 Franc piece, Bronze medal of France.

Mr. Marlier: 15 native Indian Ruppees and Ceylon 1-24 and 1-48 Stivers.

Mr. Gies: 21 Ancient Bronze Coins.

After the exhibits, adjourned to meet the first Tuesday in October.

A. C. GIES, Sec'y.

Springfield Coin Club

The regular meeting, which was postponed from October 8th, was held in the Chamber of Commerce rooms Wednesday evening, October 15th, with Vice-President Stone in the chair.

The following members were present: Messrs. Converse, Downe, Emery, Frazier, Morse, Oliver, Pond and Stone.

Minutes of the last meeting and treasurer's report read and approved.

The application of Mr. Joseph Beaudoin, of this city, was proposed by Mr. Curtis, the application being laid over one meeting.

Mr. Pond presented to the club a loose leaf secretary book. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Pond for his thoughtfulness.

The secretary was asked to report at the next meeting, a full set of members to date, also asked of the treasurer as to their standing etc.

Mr. Oliver, chairman of the entertainment committee, asked for volunteers to give an exhibition or talk on their favorite coins or bills. It was decided that each member bring ten coins or bills in which he was most interested in, and tell the reason why.

The delegates to the convention all gave a very interesting talk to the members of what they saw and did at Philadelphia.

Mr. Oliver spoke on sight-seeing trips and their visit to the U. S. mint.

Mr. Morse on exhibition and arrangement.

Mr. Morris on the entertainment at Mr. Chapman's home and his trips to foreign lands, illustrating by pictures, etc.

Through the kindness of Mr. Pond, a Chicopee Victory medal was presented to the club by Mr. Daniel J. Coakley, mayor of Chicopee, Mass. A vote of thanks was extended to his honor, and the secretary was instructed to write a letter of thanks to Mr. Coakley, thanking him in behalf of the club.

Mr. Converse, of Palmer, Mass., passed around a very beautiful, finely centered Massachusetts shilling, the most perfect one ever seen in this city.

Auction followed.

W. C. EMERY,
Secretary.

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Monthly Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

Original contributions from those interested in Numismatics solicited and liberally paid for. Newspaper and magazine clippings pertaining to Numismatics thankfully received.

B. MAX MEHL, Editor and Publisher

Offices, Mehl Building, Fort Worth, Texas

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Vol. X. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, DECEMBER, 1919 No. 12

With The Editor

The NUMISMATIC MONTHLY To Be Discontinued This Month.

With this issue the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY has reached ten years of publication, but this issue will be the last, for the time being at least.

The decision to discontinue the publication of the MONTHLY was made necessary on account of the great amount of my time that its successful publication requires, and added to this is the present continual difficulties in getting out the publication on time and obtaining the quality of print paper. To continue its publication now meant the sacrifice of much valuable time and energy necessary for more important numismatic channels.

I regret indeed to discontinue the publication, especially at this time when it is in its most successful period. Its subscription is the largest in its history; its prestige is all that I can hope for, and the support of its readers is most encouraging; and financially it has been as successful as can be hoped for for a publication of this nature.

But to continue its present standard required the sacrifice of valuable time from the other departments of my numismatic establishment, a sacrifice which my business cannot afford to make. By serving satisfactorily the subscribers of the MONTHLY it would be necessary at times to considerably neglect and give inferior service to patrons of the more important departments of my business, the Auction and Approval Departments, where collectors expect and deserve the best obtainable service.

I have been considering this step for the past two or three years, but have been extremely reluctant to make a final decision, hoping that arrangements could be made whereby less of my personal time would be required. However, with the continued growth of the MONTHLY, I found that it was exacting a greater amount of my time and its continued publication would be at the expense of the more important departments of my business.

So with this issue the NUMISMATIC MONTHLY will cease publication for the time being at least. All unexpired subscriptions will be refunded during the month of January.

I want to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere thanks to the large number of subscribers who have supported the MONTHLY, and hope for the opportunity of serving you in other channels of numismatics.

Cordially,

B. MAX MEHL.

Melting Silver Coins in France.

The French Government has issued a decree prohibiting under heavy penalties the melting of silver coins. This decree was made necessary in order to preserve the specie circulation from raids by individuals seeking to profit by the difference between the bullion value of coins and the exchange value of the general circulation. Offenders may be punished by imprisonment for six months, or by fines up to five thousand francs.

Postage Stamps Used as Coins.

Many of the restaurants in Paris have posted notices that customers must make their own change, or accept postage stamps in place of silver coins. This opens up another new field to collectors. We may yet see a French series of encased postage stamps. The scarcity of silver coins is said to be mainly due to their use for industrial purposes.

Silver—The King of Metals?

In the days of high speculation following the silver purchase act of 1890, the highest priced reached was $1.21 per ounce. As we write, the price is now six cents higher—$1.27. What it will be in another week or month, it is impossible to say. In England it is even higher, being $1.37 per ounce. The export of silver coins from that country has been forbidden.

William Waldorf Astor—Viscount Astor.

A correspondent commenting on the death of Viscount Astor, better known to Americans at W. W. Astor, says: "It is not generally known that this man who renounced his American citizenship for British some twenty years ago, and who was in 1917 created the first Viscount Astor of Hever Castle, was deeply interested in coins and numismatics, but such is the case. Many years ago while in New York City, I was shown a personal letter from at that time, plain Mr. Astor, head of the Astor family, to a well known coin dealer and cataloguer (since deceased), written in his perculiar cramped handwriting, requesting the purchase of certain gold coins about to be offered for sale, and from this letter I learned that he had a splendid collection of gold coins, U. S. and foreign, selected with good taste, to which he was constantly adding as opportunities offered."

Lord Astor was born in New York in 1845—he studied law but never practiced it. President Arthur appointed him minister to Italy in 1882, and he remained there three years. In 1890 he removed to London—and died on October 18.

The Proposed Roosevelt Two-Cent Piece.

In 1863, a pattern two-cent piece with the portrait of Washington was produced, and in 1866 a pattern of a five-cent piece with the portrait of Lincoln was made, but neither were received favorably. Therefore it is hardly likely that the proposed two, or two and one-half-cent piece with the portrait of Roosevelt will be accepted, as there seems to be a prejudice against the use of portraits on our national coins. The Lincoln cent being an exception because of sentiment aroused during the hundredth anniversary of his birth—

which was sufficiently strong to overcome the prejudice, and that coin was the result.

The Roosevelt centenary is still a long way off—and its commemoration may safely be left to a future generation.

The Bryan Dollars.

The so-called "Bryan dollars" were considered a good joke a few years ago and these satirical political pieces had some popularity with collectors. So far as William Jennings Bryan's theory of a 16 to 1 ratio for silver value is concerned it is certainly here now, and many of us are still wondering what is yet to come.

A School of Correspondence for Collectors.

We publish elsewhere a letter from Uncle George in which he advocates the establishment of "A School of Correspondence for Collectors." While we are pleased at all times to publish any paper or communication of general interest to our readers, the publication of such does not necessarily mean that we endorse everything that may be said in it. In this case, however, we find no difficulty in endorsing the proposed school. In fact we do more than endorse it, for some time we have opened our pages to similar work. We fully appreciate the difficulty felt by young collectors who desire some information respecting the coins they are interested in and have no collecting friend to enlighten them.

Our **"Question Box"** is an attempt made to meet such cases, and it is yours ot make use of as you wish. Your problems are the problems of others, what will interest and help you will doubtless interest and help them. Help us to make **Our Monthly** during 1920 a real school of correspondence for collectors.

Greek Copper Coins.

"Greek Copper Coins," is the topic fixed for the January meeting of the New York Numismatic Club, and it is perhaps safe to say that no series in the world is so greatly misunderstood by American collectors generally. Of course there are some noted exceptions—but they are exceptions and not the rule. The chief difficulty seems to be in attribution of the coins, the inscriptions being in Greek. It is not necessary that the collector should possess any great knowledge of Greek. The mere alphabet is enough to give him the key to the legends on most coins—a knowledge of history will do the rest. Another trouble is—American collectors are too particular about the condition of Greek copper coins, used to uncirculated and proof specimens of American coins they will often reject coins that would be considered acceptable in the great museums of London and Paris.

The Cabinet at the Philadelphia Mint.

We have a Mint at Philadelphia, and the Mint has a Cabinet, it was established years ago for the purpose of accumulating a collection of coins, Our great-hearted Congress, year by year appropriates the munificent sum of three hundred dollars annually for the purpose of securing coins for that Cabinet. Many collectors in this country spend more than that each year

in the purchase of a single coin to add to their collections. Many more spend more than this sum yearly in enlarging their collection.

Yet in Washington, the capital of the richest country in the world, in the chief Mint of our County, the limit for this purpose is three hundred dollars a year. It is time a change was made, and an appropriation granted yearly that in time would result in a Cabinet that would do credit to our country, and make our national collection the equal of those found in the capitals of Europe.

Congratulations, Mr. Duffield.

The Maryland Academy of Science has conferred the rank of Academician on Mr. Frank G. Duffield, of Baltimore, Md., the able and well known Editor of **The Numismatist.** The honor given on account of his writings and discoveries in numismatics.

The Coinage of Latin America

South America.

This is the last of a series of articles on the Latin American Coinage Prepared for MEHL'S NUMISMATIC MONTHLY

By M. Sorenson.

After an unsuccessful effort in 1810 to throw off Spanish domination, Chile, assisted by the Argentine General, Saint Martin, achieved independence in 1817. In that same year Don Hilarion de la Quintana, in the capacity of a virtual dictator, issued a decree which put an end to the Spanish coinage and prescribed the types for the silver coinage of the Republic. These types present an active volcano, and a column surmounted by a globe. The first issue of gold, which began as early as 1823, has a mountain range and a meridian sun on obverse, and on reverse the column that appears on the silver, and two flags, crossed.

In 1836 there was a new coinage of gold with the types of a right hand laid upon the book of the Constitution and the arms of the Republic supported by guemal and condor. In 1839 the standing figure of Liberty was introduced on the gold pieces, but the significant right hand resting upon the book of Constitution was still retained. In the same year, 1839, a new coinage of silver was introduced, a shield bearing the arms of Chile, and on the reverse a representation of a powerful condor.

Until 1846 Chile retained the old Spanish monetary system with the Peso of 8 Reals as the unit, but in that year the decimal system was introduced. The silver Peso was divided into 10 decimos and 100 centavos; and was 900 thousandths fine, being thus equal to the French 5-franc piece. The law of 1860 reduced the weight of the divisional coins, so that the double decimo piece, or 20 centavos, weighed 4.6 grams instead of 5; and the law

of 1895 made important changes in the entire series, which were fixed as follows:

Gold:	Grams.
Condor (20 pesos)	11.98207
Doblon (10 pesos)	5.99103
Escudo (5 pesos)	2.99551

The fineness of this series is 916.66.

Silver:	
Peso	20
20 Centavos	4
10 Centavos	2
5 Centavos	1

These silver coins have a fineness of 835.

The new coins struck in accordance with the law of 1895 represent the work of the eminent French sculptor and medalist, the late M. Louis Oscar Roty. On the obverse of the gold is a female bust representing Chile, and on reverse the arms of Chile. The silver pieces have on obverse a powerful condor perched upon a crag.

The coinage of nickel was introduced in 1870, the denominations being the 2, 1, and ½ Centavo pieces.

The arms of Chile are party per fess, azure and gules, a star or crest, three plumes.

The first coinage of the Independent Republic of Peru (1821), with the type of Virtue and Justice, was short lived; but in 1825 the remnant of Spanish authority removed, the republican series, this time having the standing figure of Liberty and the arms of the state, was resumed. Until 1857 the Spanish system with the Peso of 8 Reals was retained; but in that year there was established a decimal system, having as basis the gold Sol, equivalent to the 5-Franc piece of the Latin Union, and the gold series consisted of 2, 5, 10, and 20 Sols. The silver coins provided for in the law are the Sol, its half, fifth, tenth (Denero), and the Medio-denero.

The coinage of nickel was authorized in 1863 and 1878, but in 1880 all nickel coins were demonetized and the minor coinage restricted to bronze.

The mint of Peru is at Lima, the mints formerly at Arequipa and Cuzco having been closed.

The national arms of Peru are partly pale and base, in dexter chief azure a llama standing contourned, in sinister argent a cinchona tree, on base gules a cornucopiae from which pours gold coins; crest, a laurel wreath.

In 1825 the southern portion of Peru, under the leadership of General Sucre, established an independent Republic which took the name of Bolivia, in honor of the great South American Liberator, Bolivar.

From the foundation of the Republic until 1863 the old Spanish monetary system was retained in Bolivia. The new coinage law of 1863 replaced the earlier Peso of 8 Reals, with a new unit on the decimal system, the silver Boliviano of 100 Centavos. The new unit was of 25 grams weight and 900 thousandths fine, and therefore the equivalent of the 5-Franc piece of the Latin Union. Coinage of the Boliviano has long been suspended and the active

unit of the country is the one-fifth Boliviano, or 20-Centavo piece, equivalent of the Franc.

The types of the coins of Bolivia are, on obverse, the bust of Bolivar; on the reverse, for the gold coins, a view of Mount Cerro de Potosi and the sun rising behind it, in front of the mountain stands a llama; the reverse of the silver coins present a cocoa tree, beneath which lie two llamas.

The series of Bolivian coins embraces several commemorative pieces in special honor of Bolivar, of President Belzu, and of numerous events of national importance.

The coinage of nickel was introduced in 1883. The mint of Bolivia is at Potosi.

The General Constituent Assembly in 1816 declared the Province of Rio de la Plata independent of Spanish domination; but since 1813 this General Assembly had governed the country and had provided an issue of silver coins which were struck at Potosi, in Peru.

In 1836 Jean Manuel de Rosas was made Dictator, and the name of the country was at the same time changed to Republica Argentina Confederada.

The first coins of this confederate Republic bore the bust of Rosas, but it was later displaced by the arms of the Republic, and the earlier legend, EN UNION Y LIBERTAD gave way to ETERNO LOOR AL RESTAVRADOR ROSAS. In 1854 the Government, since 1852 the Argentine Republic, had 4, 2, and 1 Centavo pieces in bronze struck at the Paris mint; but the currency of the country was almost exclusively a forced circulation of paper. In 1875 an effort was made at monetary reform.

The law of 1875 provided for two mints, one at Buenos Ayres, which was actually established in 1877, and another at Salta; and established a gold standard and as a unit a Peso of 1.666 grams weight and 900 thousandths fine. The gold coins provided by that law were the Colon of 10 pesos, the Medio colon of 5 pesos, and the Peso, and a silver Peso de Plata of 27.$\frac{1}{10}$ grams, 900 fine.

In 1881 the monetary system now in use was established, which provision was made for a coinage in the four metals—gold, silver, nickel, and bronze. The unit was a Peso of either gold or silver. The denominations of the new coins are the gold Argentino of 5 pesos and its half, and the silver Peso and its subdivisions.

The types of the gold and silver coins of the Argentine Republic are the arms of the State with the legend REPUBLICA ARGENTINA, and a bust of Liberty wearing a Phrygian cap.

The mints of the Argentine Republic are Rioja(RA), and Cordova 1843-1855; but the country has often turned to other mints, and especially to the mint of Santiago de Chile, for the production of its coins.

The arms of the Argentine Republic are an oval shield party per fess, in chief azure a Liberty Cap on a pole supported by two hands on base argent; crest, sun.

The treaty of peace between Brazil and Argentine Republic signed in 1828 created the Republica Oriental del Uruguay. The coinage of Uruguay, which began in 1840, was in copper only until 1870. An interesting exception is the obsidional coinage of 1844. During the long siege of Montevideo in

the civil war General Oribe, who commanded the Estanceros, set up a mint and struck these silver Pesos Fuertos, which bear on the reverse an inscription, SITIO DE MONTEVIDEO, that declare their real character.

Uruguay has no mint, the coins of the country having been struck at various mints in Europe and South America. Thus an extensive coinage of copper was struck in France in 1857, and likewise in 1869. The silver coinage of 1877 was executed by the mint of Paris, that of 1892 at Santiago, Chile, and in 1895 the mint at Buenos Ayres coined silver for Uruguay.

The law of 1876 established the gold standard in Uruguay and adopted the monetary system of the Latin Union. The silver coins consist of the Peso, and the divisions of 50, 20, and 10 centesimos, while the bronze coins are of the value of 4, 2, and 1 centesimos.

The history of the coinage of Paraguay is very meager. The earliest coins of the country were copper pieces with the value of 1/12 of the Medio Real or 1/192 of the silver Peso. In 1855 a coinage of silver pesos was proposed and several patterns were produced at the mint of Paris, but no coins were struck for circulation. In 1864 a silver Peso was issued with types composed of a seated figure of Liberty and the arms of the Republic; and subsequently the Peso with the type of a radiant star within a wreath was issued. Until 1870 Paraguay retained the Spanish system with a silver Peso of 8 Reals, but in that year adopted the decimal system and a Peso of 100 centavos. By the law of 1903 the gold and silver coins of the Argentine Republic are made the legal currency of the country.

THE QUESTION BOX

The Value of 1794 Cents.

"What is the average price a 1794 cent, Hayes 51, fine, has brought at auction?"

Hayes book gives some fifty-six varieties of the cents of this year. Since the book was published about ten other varieties have been found. It is simply impossible to go over every sale catalogue for the past ten years and hunt up prices this variety has sold for. In our March, 1915, sale we sold fifty-four cents of this date—the total realized for the fifty-four coins was $255.15, an average of $4.72½ each. A rare variety—H. 27—sold for $48.00, but it is rated as Rarity 5, while H. 51 is only Rarity 1.

A.—Hayes 51, extra fine, sold in our sale of October, 1917, for $8.20, and another, about fine, sold in our December, 1918, sale for $2.20. This variety in strictly fine to very fine condition is easily worth from three and a half to five dollars—the more perfect and choice a coin is, the more value it has. Any 1794 cent is rare in very fine condition.

"I have a coin the obverse inscription reading " South Wales Farthing," and reverse reading "Pro Bono Publico," dated 1793. Does this belong to Wales, England, or to New South Wales?"

In 1793 New South Wales was only a British penal settlement for prisoners

with long years of imprisonment to serve. Instead of saying a man had been sent to prison for ten years, it was said "he had ten years Botany Bay." The farthing you have belongs to South Wales, Great Britain. There are nine varieties of it—none of them are rare.

Slanting and Irregular Edges of Ancient Coins.

"I have a few ancient bronze coins, some of them have a rough projection on the edge as if they had been broken from another coin. One is very thick and has a slanting edge, on this coin the head side has a smaller surface than the side with an eagle. Is there any reason for the slanting, and broken lump on edge "

Prof. Percy Gardner, a great authority on ancient coins, says: "If any Sicilian coin be taken up, there will be noticed a small projecting piece on the edge at each side. This proves that the workmen of the mints cast at once in a series of small round chambers connected by narrow channels a number of lumps of metal of the same size and fineness."

These strips were broken into separate pieces, and the design struck on them afterwards. This will apply to coins other than those of Sicily.

On the same subject, Dr. George Macdonald, in "The Evolution of Coinage," says: "The blanks for striking copper or bronze were often prepared in sets or clusters just like the **aes grave** itself; projections indicating the remains of the connecting channels are frequently noticeable on the coins. This helps to explain the marked differences of weight that often manifest themselves within the limits of what is obviously the same denomination of token money. The sloping edges found on so many bronze pieces of Syria and Egypt are the direct results of the blanks having been cast in moulds whose sides were made to slant outwards in order to facilitate the removal of the contents when the metal had cooled."

A Letter from Uncle George to His Nephew John.

A School of Correspondence for Collectors.

My Dear John:

We are drawing pretty near to the end of another collecting year. There are some things to regret, such as coins we have missed, but there are many things to be thankful for. One of the things I regret is not sending a bid for a coin I had wanted for years. I was willing to pay up to fifty dollars for it, but since its previous record was about one hundred dollars, I refrained from bidding. The coin brought thirty dollars! The moral of this is—if you want a coin offered in a sale, bid on it—don't stay away because you think some collector may bid more for it. That's just the way lots of bidders get left.

There's one thing I am particularly thankful for, none of the big cataloguers and dealers went on strike and refused to sell coins. A strike is a dispute between Capital and Labor, but as the two are combined in the person of the cataloguer-dealer, why should he go on strike?

But all jokes aside, it would be a serious thing for us if he did—to whom should we go for coins? Fancy having to run around to all the second-hand junk stores in town and turn over all the old boxes and trays of coins in search of Liberty cap 1793 cents and rare Jackson tokens. I tried it the other day,

and next time I'll take a pail of disinfectant with me, some of the coins I handled needed it badly—so I left them there.

Of course there is nothing wrong in buying coins from others than regular dealers. Every evening I look in the daily papers and study the advertisements under the heading "Articles for sale.' I scan those beginning with a large "C," always in hope of seeing "Collection of coins" offered, but I look in vain. Plenty of advertisements start with a "C," but it's always "Cooking range in good order," or "Camera," or something I do not want. Only once have I seen a "Collection of rare coins" offered. I went a half hour's trolley ride to the other end of the city, and saw one of the nicest collections of cents and half-cents I have ever seen. The collector was a man fully seventy years of age and every coin was in fine, or very fine, condition—but beautifully polished red! Besides these he had a general collection of over three thousand pieces from all over the world—all polished bright with infinite labor and care. It was a work of love with him, keeping his coins in first-class condition. "I always have done it, sir," he said; "most of the coins one buys are in such condition that they need a good cleaning."

I walked home, and only the stars know what I muttered to myself during the four-mile walk. I am glad the cataloguer-dealers do not feel called upon to polish up the coins they offer us. Probably if they did they would charge the buyer an additional five per cent., though why they should charge us at all for the privilege of buying their coins is more than I can imagine. Perhaps they wish to make both ends meat—no, that's not a mistake, I meant meat—not meet.

I was reading only last night the annual report of the A. N. A. for 1919. One thing surprised me greatly. In the last year they lost eighty-nine members by non-payment of dues. Now there must be a reason for so many dropping out—and I fancy the reason is not hard to find.

I know it is very easy and human to criticize; a medical man will tell you it is easier to make a diagnosis in some cases than to prescribe for the disease. But I wonder why eighty-nine members dropped out in one year. It would be unfair to place the blame on the officers—we must look for the cause elsewhere.

I think collectors generally are to blame, the more experienced ones especially, they do not give the young collector the helping hand and advice he needs. Only recently a collector wrote me as follows: "Say, I get so mad at times that I would tear things to pieces when I get up against something in the coin line that is new to me, and I do not understand, and there is no one to talk to about it. If it were not for you I would never get to the bottom of these things at all. Oh, that there was a society of coin collectors, or one like yourself in this town that I could talk to, and not have to ask so many questions by mail. It is like taking a course in the school of correspondence."

That's my prescription—a School of Correspondence for Collectors. There are scores of collectors in this country quite capable of conducting a class in such a school. There are scores of collectors who would be only too pleased to join such classes. Why not get them into touch with each other?

It would make all the difference in the world if a young collector had some experienced friend to whom he could submit the questions concerning coins that now puzzle him. Instead of throwing up the hobby in disgust, he

would find his interest and pleasure in it increase from week to week. And in time he would graduate and become a teacher himself, and help to make the path easier for others to walk in.

The teacher would find it a pleasant task, he would give help and information to those in need of it, and this in itself would bring his reward. His own interest in numismatics would be quickened and increased, and he would share the benefit and pleasure with his pupil.

UNCLE GEORGE.

Do You Know That—

The word "money" has a curious origin. It comes from the old French word "monnoie," from the Latin moneta, the mint. Originally it was the surname of Juno, and meant the "warner" or "admonisher," from moneo, to admonish. In Juno's temple at Rome, the money was coined.

Britain's earliest naval victory, that of Sluys, won in 1340, was commemorated by Edward III by the introduction of an entirely new gold coin, the "noble," bearing a representation of a war galley.

Nickel coins, now so popular throughout the world, were in circulation under some of the kings of Bactria soon after 200 B. C., being slightly stiffened by a tinge of copper.

Gold coins were struck in Etruria in the fifth century B. C., and silver in Sicily and Magna Grecia from the sixth century onwards.

Pepin the Short (752-768 A. D.), demonetized gold and made the silver denarius or "penny" the standard coin throughout the whole of his dominions. His son Charlemagne made this standard coin a little heavier. For fully four centuries thereafter silver was supreme.

The true rebirth of gold is marked by the striking in 1252 of the first "florin," the famous gold coin of the city of Florence. It sprang into popularity at once, and in a comparatively short time imitations of it were being struck almost throughout the length and breadth of Europe. Some eighty-three of them are recorded, and so annoyed were the Florentines that they persuaded the Pope to intervene and publish a bull forbidding the practice.

The motto E Pluribus Unum was first used on coins in 1795, when the reverse type of the half-eagle presented the main features of the Great Seal of the U. S. on the scroll of which the motto belongs.

The religious motto, "In God We Trust," first appeared on the regular coins of this country in 1864, and owes its presence there to the increased religious sentiment during the Civil War.

The use of stars as symbols of the different states began in the first year of the national coinage. Until 1892, the six-pointed form was used; but on the reverse of half and quarter- dollars of that year the five-pointed star was introduced, while the six-pointed star was used on the obverse. In 1908, the five-pointed star was used on the obverse of the half and quarter-eagles, disregarding a well established custom in our coinage.

On the first gold coins of this country there was no indication of their value, and on the silver dollar, and halfdollar the value was milled (insuced) on the edge, similar to the cent and half-cent, but in 1804 the value appears on the quarter-dollar, 25 c. In 1807 appears 50 c. and 5 D, placed on the half-dollar and half-eagle, respectively. In 1838 the value of the eagle was given—

TEN D. On the half-dollars of 1836-7 the form appears "50 cents," which was cahnged to HALF DOL, the next year. Now all designs have values stated in full.

Until 1908 coins for Canada were all struck in England, but in that year a mint was established and opened at Ottawa, where the coins are now struck. Coins for Newfoundland and Jamaica are now struck at the Ottawa mint.

The earliest American coins struck are the quarter reals of Charles and Joanna, of Spain (1536-1556). They have teh mint-mark MO, and were struck at Mexico.

Your subscription for 1920 is now due.

New York's Woman Magistrate.

"Mrs. Jean H. Norris is the first woman magistrate in New York. She has been appointed by Mayor Hylan to fill a vacancy caused by the illness of Judge Breen."

Old-fashioned people—if there are any left now in this country—doubtless rubbed their eyes and exclaimed, "Well I never—what shall we have next," after reading the above.

But for women to be police magistrates is nothing new. Canada has had such for years—there is one in Alberta, and another in Saskatchewan. But bronze coins issued at Smyrna, during the time of the Emperor Domitian (69-96 A. D. show that a woman sometimes held a magistrate's office in that city. From the legend on reverse of a coin we learn that the lady Murton held the office of magistrate, with the title "crown bearer," and was called "Daughter of the People of Smyrna."

Numismatic Random Reels.

Rare Coins An Aid to Stage Realism.

By Delmont Angell.

In the screen version of "The Bells," made famous on the speaking stage in the early eighties by the late Sir Henry Irving, is enacted the tragic killing of the Jew Peddler. It will be remembered the traveling Jewish merchant approached the inn to the accompaniment of jingling chimes which caparisoned his horse and sleigh. As he crossed the threshold of the hospice his lips uttered the words, "Peace be within this household," and after being regaled with a flagon of wine and a crust he departed to the same kindly-meant supplication to the Supreme Being. It was at the exposure of his cherished horde of money that the Great Temptation crossed the somewhat perturbed mind of the innkceper, who had passed through a particularly lean winter, and was threatened with being thrown, with his family, onto the gigantic snow-hills that piled in front of his home. With the gentle admonishment of the itinerant vender searing into his very soul and the pathetic thought of his kith and kin exposed to the rigors of winter's severity, the inkeeper bludgeons the peddler and secures the reward of his crime. In the masterful portrayal on the screen, of Frank Keenan, and as is the custom of the great producers, no minute detail is omitted to give exact realism to the scene. On the day of his daughter's marriage, years after the fateful tragedy, in arranging the substantial dowry that was to be her portion, he

pulls out a drawer and there, exposed to view, was an overlooked coin that brought back in all its horror the grewsome murder of which he had been the author. It was then he cries "The Bells," that were ever jingling in his disordered brain, and again were the loathsome details photographed in his mind and re-enacted at sight of thist startling reminder of his guilty past. In the spoken drama the lines speak of an iron coin, but in the silent play the the coin photographed is a rare double ducat of Holland, and was loaned for the screen purpose by an Eastern collector. Not much do these wonder directors of the silent play miss to make their productions breathe of the spirit, time and place of their setting!

Let it be known that in many of the plays of Moliere Sheridan, and other playwrights, rare coins have found a place in their art, and the same may be said to obtain in much of the English literature as well, ofttimes serving as the keynote in plot development. I have often regretted not making some sort of a compilation of these instances that have come under by personal observation, as not only being of interest to the collector in general, but adding in a small way to the literature of the world.

Small wonder that quotations for German marks are at their lowest ebb. In one bundle of 50-mark notes tendered the teller of the Reichsbank, every other one was noted to be a counterfeit. A prominent German banker stated recently that to question them would lead to a still further decline in the genuine. This same condition existed in Spain and Mexico over a century ago, when so much of the Spanish silver was of base metal that it passed current to save the genuine from repudiation.

A two-dollar bill is not always what it purports to be on its face. Recently in a Western city eight angry depositors of a banking house faced an awe-struck teller with a bill of the denomination on its obverse, but its reverse bore the plate and numerals of the one-dollar bill. I'm always out of luck or in the wrong town when anything like this is staged!

Dog's eye-teeth at one time circulated as money in New Guinea and Solomon Islands. I was informed by a traveler to the latter archipelago that he saw a native wearing a chain of 500 of these teeth, representing 250 dogs! It occurred to the writer that it a mighty good thing that the dogs themselves didn't pass current or the aforementioned native would have experienced some difficulty in displaying his wealth!

Milwaukee, Wis.

Numismatic Notes.

For Mehls Numismatic Monthly.

By M. Sorensen.

The first American gold coinage of eagles, half eagles and quarter eagles of the value of $10, $5 and $2.50, respectively, was placed in circulation December 6, 1792. The first coin called an eagle was used in Ireland in the thirteenth century and was so called from the figure of an eagle impressed upon it, but it was made of base metal. The standard of the eagle was borne by the ancient

Persians, and the Romans also carried gold and silver eagles as ensigns, and sometimes represented them with a thunderbolt in their talons. Charlemagne adopted the double headed eagle as the standard of the Holy Roman Empire. The eagle was the standard of Napoleon I and Napoleon III, as well as of Austria, Prussia and Russia.

The postal law of March 3, 1851, provided also for the coinage of a three-cent piece, composed of three-fourths silver and one-fourth copper, weighing 12 3/18 grains. The domestic rate of postage was then put at 3 cents, and that was the reason for issuing the 3-cent silver piece.

When we, for the second time, had our postage rate on letters put at 3 cents, the government did not provide us with a coin wherewith to buy the stamp. But perhaps it was assumed that we, since 1851, have become more efficient in handling the pennies.

A United States senator told his colleagues the other day that the best way to combat teh high cost of living would be to diminish the volume of money in circulation.

Perhaps the man is right. But to a less learned person it looks as though most people dont' have enough to go around as it is.

According to the secretary of the treasury, there never was a time in the history of this country when there was so much money in circulation. And he might have added that there never was a time when the people had so much need of it.

The volume of money in circulation has greatly increased since the beginning of the war. In the United States there is about twice the amount in 1914; in England three times as much, and in France, Italy and Germany five to six times as much. Theoretically those European countries are on a gold basis, but if they had to redeem half of the currency in circulation today, the states would go bankrupt.

The Marie Theresa dollar has been the principal coin used in Abyssinia, and the Abyssinian government has for the last two or three years prohibited its export because the amount of money in circulation in that country was becoming rapidly reduced, owing to the stoppage of imports from Trieste, and by the outside demand for the silver dollars.

Profiteers are just finding out what the penny is for. It is made to be tacked onto the price of everything that used to be five cents.

Some people have wondered at the term "Dixieland," and have asked the origin of same, as applied to the South. According to a newspaper, this is the solution:

Before the Civil War the old Citizens Bank of New Orleans, having the power to issue paper money, provided quantities of bills, mostly in ten-dollar denominations, having the French word "Dix" on their backs. This money being popular, according to this theory, Louisiana was referred to as the land

of the "Dixies." Eventually the term was broadened to include all of the southern states.

If you ask people which is the biggest gold coin turned out by Uncle Sam, everybody will answer: The $20 piece. And that is right as far as coins goes. but our Uncle Sam turns out greater gold pieces than that—gold bricks or bars. The biggest gold pieces weigh 30 pounds, and are worth $7,200. It is a gold brick, just about the length and width of an ordinary building brick, but not so thick.

Bankers use these bricks extensively to settle balances, and exports of gold are commonly made in this shape.

New Philippine Peso Note.

One peso insular treasury certificates bearing an engraving of Mabini has been placed in circulation. About 80,000 of the new denominations will be circulated.

This is the first time the Philippine government has used 1-peso notes, similar to those recently placed in circulation by the Philippine National Bank.

The only striking difference between the two lies in the pictures. Those of the bank bear the picture of Conant, the initiator of the present monetary currency of the islands.

The Philippine treasury received on the army transport Thomas a consignment of fourteen boxes containing different denominations of money. Two of these carried the new Mabini pesos.

The printing of the new money was authorized by a law passed last year. It amended the currency system of the islands. The printing has been done by the federal printing bureau at Washington.

There was a dispute as to whose picture should be placed on the new form of money; whether that of Congressman Jones of Virginia, the late author of the Jones law, the organic law of the Philippines, or that of Mabini, the Sublime Paralytic, called the brains of the Philippine revolution.

Objects to "Flash Money"

People are attracted by anything that looks like money; and the government secret service, whose main business it is to run down counterfeiters, has a good deal of incidental trouble with what is called "flash stuff"—meaning thereby playful imitations of the currency that are not counterfeits at all, but merely bear a sort of likeness to money.

Stores sometimes issue such imitations as advertising matter. Gilt papier mache articles representing a few gold coins loosely heaped may serve a like purpose; or the device, cheaply made of paper, may look like a leather billfold, with the ends of two or three suppositious banknotes sticking out.

The government objects to this sort of thing; in fact it is forbidden by law, and "flash money" is confiscated wherever found. It is dangerous because easily passed upon ignorant and unsuspecting persons, particularly illiterate immigrants who are unable to distinguish its real character.

The Penny Rules.

This is the day of the penny. The insignificant copper cent has taken the place of the almighty dollar in fiscal importance to the American public.

War taxation has created a demand for pennies that is unprecedented in the history of domestic currency. To meet this enormously increased demand the United States mint in Philadelphia is producing from 2 to 3 million 1-cent pieces daily.

The necessity for coining more pennies manifested itself as a result of the standard of uneven prices that, because of war taxes, has been established in the business, transportation and almost every commercial phase of community life.

The increased demand for pennies is especially noticed in cities because of the volume of exchange of small currency in the usual daily expenditures of the urbanite. Although machines in the mint at Philadelphia are stamping out coppers day and night, the mint is still 8 million pennies behind orders. Adam M. Joyce, superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia, has made the statement that when the war taxes first came into effect the supply of pennies on the market was surprisingly inadequate to the new demand. It was first thought that perhaps some industrial enterprises might have been melting 1-cent pieces down for copper, that metal being very difficult to obtain at the time. Government investigation, however, disclosed that this was not the case, but that the scarcity of pennies on the western coast had drawn a large amount of copper coin to that part of the country.

The output of pennies at our minths has during the fiscal year just ended been the greatest of any year in the history of these institutions. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919, there was minted 347,066,300 1-cent pieces by our three mints.

With a coinage of more than 370,000,000 bronze cents during the calendar year 1918, and with the continued coinage at the same rate during the first six months of 1919, there is still an insistent demand for more and more of these coins.

The money factories of Uncle Sam have been placed on a 24-hour basis to make money enough for people to pay the war tax. All resources are to be used in turning out copper cents at the rate of 100,000,000 a month to meet the demand of the post-war revenue placed on small commodities.

The demand is in excess of 150,000,000 cents a month, and with the new production San Francisco, for the first time, will be shipping pennies to fill the coin demand in Chicago and the Middle West. Heretofore the Philadelphia mint has coined most of the copper. Since the introduction of coppers the mints have coined 3,300,000,000.

Some of the Prices Realized for the Granberg Collection, Sold by B. Max Mehl, on November 19, 1919.

Dollar 1846 Proof	$17.50
Dollar 1848 Proof	18.00
Dollar 1849 Proof	10.50
Dollar 1852 Proof	71.00
Dollar 1854 Proof	12.50
Dollar 1858 Proof	31.25

Half Dollar 1842 Proof 7.50
Half Dollar 1848 Proof 9.00
Half Dollar 1854 Proof 5.25
Quarter Dollar 1842 Proof 11.75
Quarter Dollar 1843 Proof 10.00
Quarter Dollar 1848 Proof 9.40
Dime 1842 Proof 11.25
Dime 1843 Proof 10.25
Dime 1847 Proof 10.50
Large U. S. Cent 1842 Proof 18.75
Large U. S. Cent 1843 Proof 29.25
Large U. S. Cent 1846 Proof 34.50
Large U. S. Cent 1848 Proof 15.75
Large U. S. Cent 1849 Proof 17.75
Large U. S. Cent 1854 Proof 10.50
Half Cent 1842 Proof 82.25
Half Cent 1843 Proof 63.00
Half Cent 1846 Proof 62.00
Half Cent 1847 Proof 47.75
Half Cent 1848 Proof 53.50
Dollar 1795 Uncirculated 15.75
Dollar 1850 Proof 13.25
Pattern Dollar 1863 Proof. A-W 367 ..... 37.50
Pattern Dollar 1864 A-W 433. Proof 37.50
Pattern Dollar 1872 A-W 1254 Uncirculated 31.00
Half Dollar 1795 with three leaves under wings. V. Fine.....115.00
Half Dollar 1796 Fifteen Stars. Extremely fine 175.00
Half Dollar 1796 Sixteen Stars. About fine 74.00
Quarter Dollar 1853 without rays and arrows. Good 8.25
Twenty Cent 1877 Proof 5.75
Twenty Cent 1878 Proof 5.25
Half Cent 1851 Large Planchet 12.60
Gold. England 1877 Victoria Five Pounds 31.75
George IV. 1824 10 Thaler for Brunswick and Luneberg..... 9.65
Norway and Sweden Half Dollar Size 8.40
Norway and Sweden 1563 Mark of Eric XIV 5.75
Canada. North West Token, 1820 ..... 21.75
Jewish Shekel 46.50
Half Eagle 1795. Fine 18.50
Gold Dollar 1880 Extremely fine 6.25
McKinley Gold Dollar 1903 Proof 5.00
Half Dollar 1836 Proof 16.50
Pattern Cent 1859 Proof 7.60
Pattern Half Eagle. 1804. Uncirculated 50.00
Large U. S. Cent 1793. Fair 8.00
Flying Eagle Cent 1856 Proof 10.00
Complete set of Panama-Pacific Commemorative Coins 205.00

There were in all over 1200 lots. A complete price list, showing amounts realized for each lot, may be had for fifty cents. The catalog and price list at $1.00.

VOLUME X

NUMBER 12
WHOLE NUMBER 117

Mehl's Numismatic Monthly

An Illustrated Numismatic Journal

Devoted to Coins, Medals and Paper Money

DECEMBER, 1919

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY

B. MAX MEHL

MEHL BUILDING

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, U. S. A.

Announcing Another Quality Sale

A FINE AND INTERESTING COLLECTION OF
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* * *

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* * *

Truly a "Quality Sale"

* * *

SOMETHING OF INTEREST TO
EVERY COLLECTOR

* * *

Fine Catalogs will be ready soon. They are free to all who are on my list, and to other buyers who write for it

* * *

"QUALITY AUCTION SERVICE"

B. MAX MEHL
NUMISMATIST
FORT WORTH TEXAS

FORT WORTH

1. Fort Worth's building permits for the first ten months of this year have been $13,264,250.00.

2. Fort Worth led the entire state in building permits for the month of August and only eleven cities in the United States surpassed the local total during that month. Those cities being such as Detroit, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia.

3. Fort Worth's building permits for the month of September showed an increase of 2,365 per cent over the month of September, 1918. Fort Worth was one of six cities in the United States whose increase was more than 2,000 per cent.

4. That the first nine months of this year approximately 20,000 instruments were filed for record with county clerk. This was 6,000 more than for the entire year of 1918.

5. Fort Worth's deposits October first showed a gain of 80 per cent over deposits October 1, 1918.

6. Fort Worth's clearings for first nine months of 1919 showed a gain of $118,000,000 over the first nine months of 1918.

7. Fort Worth is the railway center of the Southwest, having more outlets than any other city south of St. Louis.

8. Fort Worth is the packing center of the Southwest.

9. Fort Worth is the grain center of the Southwest.

10. Fort Worth is the oil center of the Southwest, all of the largest oil well supply houses in the United States are building large permanent buildings of steel and concrete; this fact alone proves absolutely that they recognize Fort Worth as the oil center of the Southwest, fifty oil well supply houses being in Fort Worth at this time.

11. Fort Worth is the refining center of the Southwest, $5,500,000 being invested in refineries.

12. The estimated population of Fort Worth will be 250,000 at the end of 1920.

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Contemplate to sell your Collection, or any part of it, I am confident that you'll find it to your advantage to give me an opportunity of its purchase for spot cash or its successful sale through my **proven** successful auction methods. My extensive Numismatic Establishment offers you the largest market for the sale of your collection. And my financial responsibility affords you ample assurance of satisfactory results.

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the sequestered nooks,
and all the sweet serenity of books."
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